

By The Times overseas
Austria 32c; Belgium 3c; Fr 60c;
Canada 82c; Charles 12c;
Cyprus 42c; Denmark 14c;
Finland 40c; France 11c;
Germany 40c; Greece 10c;
Iceland 14c; Ireland 12c;
Italy 33c; Malta 25c; Monaco 14c;
Montenegro 25c; Norway 12c;
Portugal 16c; Spain 25c; Malta
38c; Turkey 1.50c; USA \$2.75;
3.80. Turned Dm 1.50c; USA \$2.75.

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Poll gives Labour 7-point lead

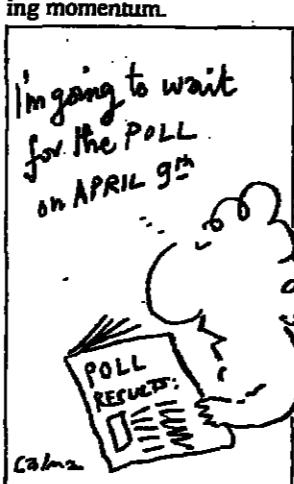
BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR has swept into a commanding lead in the three latest opinion polls, with a Mori survey for *The Times* today giving Neil Kinnock sufficient support to win a working majority of more than 20 seats.

The Mori results give Labour its greatest support since October, while the Conservatives are at their lowest ebb since last June.

The figures are Labour 42 per cent, Conservatives 35, Liberal Democrats 19, and others 4. The findings are the result of face-to-face interviews with 1,080 people on Monday. A week ago Mori put support for Labour at 41 per cent, with Conservatives 38, Liberal Democrats 17 and others 4.

If the results were repeated nationwide in a uniform swing on April 9, the Conservatives would lose more than 100 seats. Labour would win 337 seats in the Commons, with the Conservatives on 268, the Liberal Democrats on 18 and others on 27. At the last election the Conservatives had 376 seats and Labour took 229.

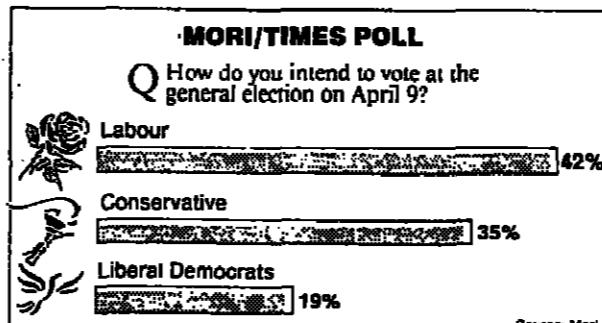


In the first clear break of a previously deadlocked electoral campaign, Labour appears to have enjoyed a delayed benefit from lifting health to the top of the political agenda with the controversial Jennifer Bennett election broadcast. Conservative strategists were shocked by last night's poll, which emerged just as they believed that their campaign had begun to gain ground. They will now be scrambling to prevent the slide in their support gathering momentum.

Neil Kinnock said the results were very good. "They are in line with constituency individual polls and regional polls which have been showing for some days that in the seats where this election will be decided we are doing extraordinarily well and will be making large gains."

Two other opinion polls also gave Labour a convincing lead last night. A Harris poll for ITN found party support at Labour 41 per cent, Conservatives 35, Liberal Democrats 19 and others 5. An ICM poll for today's *Guardian* measured Labour support at 41 per cent, with the Conservatives on 37, Liberal Democrats on 18 and others on 4 per cent.

The figures in the three polls shattered the belief of Conservative campaigners that the prime minister's



stronger showing over the past few days and Labour's apparent failure to profit from last week's health controversy had offered them the chance to win back the initiative. It seems, however, as though Labour's decision to promote the health debate has taken longer to work through than expected.

Health has soared even further ahead as the subject of chief concern to electors in deciding how to vote. It is now named by 56 per cent

ten points more than at the start of the election campaign.

When people were asked if the National Health Service was safe in Mr Major's hands, 53 per cent said that it was not and only 38 per cent believed that it was. Among

those who put health as their chief concern, the verdict was 64-29 per cent against the prime minister as a guardian of the NHS.

More than half of those questioned disbelieve the government's constant assertions that it has no plans to privatise the health service; 57 per cent expect a Conservative government to privatise the NHS and only 32 per cent think it would not.

The survey found that 57 per cent of respondents believed that Labour would make fulfil its promise to spend an extra £1 billion on the health service, while 30 per cent doubted the pledge. When people were asked if the government's proposals for the NHS would improve standards of care or make

them worse, only 27 per cent believed the health service would benefit. The poll showed that 33 per cent believed the government plans would make it worse and 34 per cent said it would make no difference.

The Conservative campaign, revamped last weekend on less negative lines after the Tories' earlier failure to end Labour's previously narrow lead, has not proved popular with the voters. When people were asked which party had run the most effective campaign, 31 per cent named Labour, 28 per cent said the Liberal Democrats and only 13 per cent opted for the Conservatives.

While 65 per cent of Liberal Democrats and 56 per cent of Labour supporters believed their parties had the best campaign only 26 per cent of Conservative supporters believed that their party's campaign effort was the best. Almost as many Conservatives, 24 per cent, thought the Liberal Democrats had the best campaign and 17 per cent of them thought Labour did.

The latest opinion polls will send shockwaves through the Conservative hierarchy, and are likely to provoke adverse

reactions in the markets, still further underlining the government's problems with the economy.

Psychologists, pollsters and party workers cite several factors in Labour's sudden surge into a clear lead. The Conservatives are finding it impossible to induce a "feel-good factor" against the constant stream of bleak economic statistics. They have enjoyed no outside bonus with England failing to win the world cup, bad news about the royal family and indifferent weather.

Above all, the Conservatives have failed to dominate the agenda or to make progress on their two chosen issues of the Labour leadership and taxation. Mr Kinnock has had a trouble-free campaign, improving his own leadership ratings, while the taxation issue has never gripped the public imagination. It is named in the latest Mori poll by only 15 per cent as an issue likely to determine their voting behaviour.

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TODAY IN
THE TIMES

EXCLUSIVE
ENTERPRISE



In Gilbert
Adair's book,
E is for
expunging, excising,
eliminating, etc
Life & Times
Page 1

EDUCATING
ELIZA



Jane Washington can
distinguish 124 vowel
sounds — six fewer
than Professor
Higgins but enough
for the National
Life & Times
Page 3

ENTICING
ESCAPISM



TV has sprung
another tourist trap
— Bernard Richards
on the lure of the
camomile lawn
Page 14

Candidates lose CND credentials

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR campaign chiefs were accused yesterday of deleting all references to membership of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament from the official biographies of at least 24 of their election candidates.

Of the 634 Labour candidates at the election, who include well-known CND activists such as Joan Ruddock, Jeremy Corbyn and Ken Livingstone, only one, Bruce Kent, a former chairman of the organisation, declares his allegiance in the party's candidates directory issued to the media.

Allegations about the extent to which Labour has decided to play down the party's links with the unilateralist pressure group were made yesterday by Tom King, the defence secretary, and Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman.

The move came at a preview of last night's Conservative election broadcast, which sought to resurrect defence as an election issue and accused Labour of planning deep cuts in the armed forces. The lavishly produced programme claimed that more than 100 Labour MPs were members of CND, highlighted Neil Kinnock's unilateralist past and claimed he could not be trusted with the nation's security in an uncertain world. "In 1992, voting Labour is a dangerous game," was the pay-off line.

Mr King accused Labour of perpetrating a "monstrous cover-up" in an attempt to persuade the country that it can be trusted to keep the nuclear deterrent and that it no longer has links with CND.

Mr King said he could prove his case because last year Labour party headquarters sent out advance copies of the first batch of 99 biographies, which typically run to about 150 words. Of these, 25 stated that they were members of CND. But when the full and final list of candidates was published at the start of the campaign, 24 of these biographies had been "doctored" to exclude all references to CND. The only exception was Mr Kent.

"What did we find? Not one Labour MP was listed as a CND member, no Corbyn, no Cryer, no Canavan, not even Joan Ruddock. Not only that but the first 24, who had been honest enough to include it in their biographies, had been censored, and the entries carefully doctored."

"To be fair one entry is not doctored — Bruce Kent. Even Labour's censors could not fake that one."

Mr King conceded that so far defence had not figured in the campaign. Labour wanted it that way and they would do all they could to avoid it becoming an issue. "They will go to the lengths that we are demonstrating today to cover up anything that might be embarrassing to them."

The defence secretary released a Conservative central office dossier comparing the draft biographies with the final versions. In each case, CND membership appears in the first version and disappears from the final one.

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Will your only legacy be upset, confusion and paperwork?

Without a Will, your wishes could count for nothing.

Without a Will, the State could take everything.

Without a Will, your family could lose out.

Without a Will, the tax office could easily benefit.

Without a Will, you can't remember your friends.

Without a Will, you can't remember Christian Aid.

Without a Will, life may be difficult for those closest to you.

Without a Will, life may be impossible for those far away.

If you would like to find out how easy it is to make a Will, send for our free new booklet A Will to Care to Christian Aid, Freeport, London SE1 7YY or phone Glenn McWatt 071-620 4444 ext 2226.

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Address _____

Postcode _____

Christian Aid

UN imposes sanctions on Libyans

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE United Nations Security Council voted yesterday to impose sanctions on Libya for failing to hand over two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing, despite fears that Tripoli would retaliate by preventing thousands of British and other foreign workers from leaving the country.

All civilian air links and arms trade with Libya will be prohibited from April 15 — the anniversary of the 1986 American bombing raid on Tripoli — and Libya's diplomatic representation abroad will be compulsorily reduced.

Ten of the 15 security council members supported the sanctions resolution, only one more than the nine votes required. China, Cape Verde, India, Morocco, and Zimbabwe abstained.

Families of the Lockerbie

victims and uniformed Pan Am flight crew watched the vote from the public gallery.

"After the largest criminal investigation in the history of the world, these two men and Libya itself have been indicted," said George Williams, who lost his son, Gertie, in the Lockerbie bombing. "Now is the time for a trial."

Ali Ahmed al-Houdeiri, Libya's ambassador, told the security council that reports that Libya was not issuing exit visas to some foreign workers seeking to leave the country were "baseless allegations". He criticised the council for acting before the International Court of Justice had ruled on Libya's claim that it has the right to try the two suspects itself under the 1971 Montreal Convention on airline terrorism.

The mandatory UN sanctions will come into force automatically on April 15 unless the security council decides before that deadline that Libya has met its demands and votes to lift them. Western diplomats said, however, it would be difficult for Libya to fulfil the council's conditions.

Of the five nations previously subjected to UN sanctions, only one, Rhodesia, has had them lifted, and then only when it became Zimbabwe. Comprehensive UN sanctions are still in place against Iraq, and UN arms embargoes are in force against South Africa, Yugoslavia, and Somalia.

Britain yesterday expressed concern about 5,000 British citizens living and working in Libya. Unspoken fears are mounting that some may be held in the country as hostages or possible human shields against any Western air strike.

Libya has refused exit visas to a number of foreigners, despite assurances previously given about the freedom of

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LIFE & TIMES

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 12 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section.

14

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By THE FOREIGN STAFF
AFTER 162 years of independence, talks today on the future of Belgium are likely to throw the country's existence into doubt. The Dutch-speaking region of Flanders in the north may now decide to rejoin The Netherlands, while Wallonia, the francophone south, could opt to fulfil a dream that even Napoleon could never achieve, union with France.

Alternatively, the country may merge into a new Benelux state. Brussels, the capital, has long been expected to emerge as the self-governing capital of the European Community. The starting possibility, to be discussed at a secret meeting today of



Edith Cresson leaving the Elysée Palace after meeting President Mitterrand

Cresson on brink of resigning

BY PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

EDITH Cresson appeared last night to be on the point of stepping down as prime minister of France after an unscheduled visit to the Elysée Palace for talks with President Mitterrand. But with speculation about her departure after just ten months in office reaching fever pitch, Mme Cresson steadfastly refused to give any hint about the outcome of their 35-minute meeting before leaving Paris for a pre-arranged official trip to Germany and a meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor.

Libya has refused exit visas to a number of foreigners, despite assurances previously given about the freedom of

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Day of decision arrives for future of Belgium

By THE FOREIGN STAFF

that almost nobody in Belgium is yet aware of the momentous implications. A report has been made available to *The Times* from a source inside the European Community's 24th directorate, which has the most to gain from the change.

The implications for the European Community of the break up of Belgium would be serious. With only 11 members instead of 12, there will be one fewer commissioner, and The Netherlands and France will have to take up Belgium's share of the budget. It had been hoped that both Flanders and Wallonia could enter separately, but this raised the issue of whether the Community is yet ready to recognise

regions as countries — an issue strongly supported by Scottish and other nationalists. In southern Europe, there is widespread distrust of such trikkaidekaphobia.

The disappearance of Belgium would mean that the United Kingdom would hand over the presidency directly to Denmark, the next in alphabetical order. All countries would be required to shift the term of their presidency forward by six months. The designation of Brussels as a federal capital of Europe would give the Community a "neutral ground" headquarters, much like Washington DC or Canberra. The details of how it would be administered and financed are unclear, but the

day-to-day running would probably remain with the mayors of the city's 19 boroughs. The timetable of the break-up has still to be worked out. Both Flanders and Wallonia are largely self-governing, under the final revision of the constitutional arrangements which devolve almost all power and government functions to the regional capitals in Ghent and Namur. Brussels is at present a separate self-governing region of its own.

Flemish radio was yesterday on strike, blocking out early rumours of today's *Times* story, including its dateline.

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members of the squabbling francophone and Dutch-speaking parties, comes after years of increasingly arduous attempts to hold the country together.

Dismantlement of the unified state, the most drastic option available, was kept so secret, for fear of derailing the delicate negotiations,

that almost nobody in Belgium is yet aware of the momentous implications. A report has been made available to *The Times* from a source inside the European Community's 24th directorate, which has the most to gain from the change.

The implications for the European Community of the break up of Belgium would be serious. With only

Increase in travel bookings suggests that the gloom has lifted

THE clearest indication yet that Europe is fighting its way out of recession came yesterday from the world's leading travel and hotel companies who say that increases of well over 30 per cent in bookings for air tickets, hotel rooms and car rentals in April.

The World Travel and Tourism Council, meeting in Hong Kong, yesterday reported a dramatic and consistent increase in bookings throughout the continent leading to growing optimism that the combined effects of the recession and the Gulf war are finally over.

The council's travel index — a snapshot of industry's confirmed bookings for the month ahead taken last Friday — shows that air travel in Europe is 31.4 per cent up on the same time last year, hotel

bookings are 33.6 per cent up and car rental 32.6 per cent higher.

Air travel across the North Atlantic to and from Europe is 38.5 per cent up on last year leading to an increased number of flights and a growing confidence that the worst financial 12 months in aviation history may finally be over.

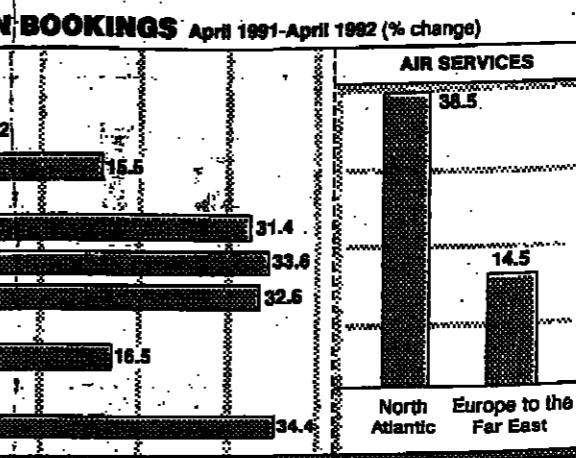
Even allowing for the additional bookings as a direct result of Easter, which this year falls in April instead of March, as it did last year, the turn-round is significant and has delighted the industry which is regarded as one of the key barometers of the global economy. British Air-

ways and first class tickets. Britain's biggest travel agency, Lunn Poly, also prefers to compare this year with 1990 and says that it has sold 30 per cent more holidays in the first three months than it did in the same period two years ago. Industry wide, the comparison between this year and last is even more stark with 1.78 million holidays sold by British tour operators in the first two months of this year compared with only 906,000 in the same period of 1991 — an increase of 97 per cent.

The World Travel and Tourism Council's index shows a healthy growth in all travel-related services in almost all parts of the world except the domestic American air market which is still 4.5 per cent down on April last year and in Asian hotels

bookings which are the same as they were last year.

Geoffrey Lipman, president of the council, said: "The best thing that can be said about 1991 is that it is over, and this survey appears



British Airways. The industry is the biggest single employer in the world with 1.27 million jobs — one in every 15 — depending on it. It will produce more than 6 per cent of world GNP next year and is growing 23 per cent faster than the world economy generally.

At yesterday's meeting a plan was put forward to create a development fund to boost travel in Eastern Europe. Mr Lipman said: "Travel and Tourism was a crucial component of the Marshall plan for revitalising Western Europe 45 years ago and we have an opportunity and obligation to unleash the economic might of travel and tourism once again to aid the cause of development and democracy in central and Eastern Europe."

Onion war farmer threatens to block French exports

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S onion war with France intensified yesterday when the haulier at the centre of the battle threatened to retaliate against French farmers who have already burned one lorry and its cargo and threatened its staff.

Peter Davis said that if another of his vehicles was attacked or an employee hurt he would block the farmer's trade with Britain by jamming one of his articulated lorries on the ferry ramp at the port of Roscoff, Brittany.

"I know there would be

consequences and the lorry could be lost, but I face losing a £2 million contract unless something is done," said the managing director of the haulage firm Davex at his office in Louth, Lincolnshire.

On Monday night Mr Davis took his own steps to ensure the safe passage of a load being moved the 16 miles from Brest to the Roscoff port.

While an empty Davex lorry escorted by specially hired security guards travelled a route leaked to the farmers, an unmarked vehi-



Questions of evidence: Peter Alphon, left, who has confessed to the murder, and James Hanratty



Hanratty campaigners seek DNA tests

Techniques not available in 1962 could establish the innocence of the man hanged for the A6 murder, Stewart Tendler writes

CAMPAIGNERS trying to prove the innocence of James Hanratty, hanged 30 years ago this week for the A6 murder, will today ask the Home Office to reopen the case and order the release of samples taken at the murder scene for testing with DNA to clear the dead man.

Scotland Yard has refused to hand over the samples for testing or to allow campaigners access to 16 boxes of papers collected by London detectives who led the investigation.

If the samples are made available a DNA match could be made which might clear Hanratty using the DNA profile of his surviving relatives. The technique of DNA matching was not available until the 1980s.

"They don't mind sending their goods abroad, but they don't want anything foreign to come into their country. This is 1992 and supposed to be a free market."

He accused the French police of failing to support his drivers. "They were on the scene when the lorry was hijacked and did nothing. I have protested about that to the British Embassy in Paris and they are taking it up with the French government."

He has also asked Bill Newton Dunn, MEP for Lincolnshire, to raise the issue in Brussels. One reason for the British farmers' attitude is the decline of their own once-celebrated onion industry.

al Gregsten in a lay-by on the A6 just south of Bedford and then raping and shooting Valerie Storie, Gregsten's girlfriend. She was left for dead, but survived and samples taken from her clothing could be tested.

The existence of the samples and a new confession by a London man who said he carried out the murder have come to light in research for a Channel 4 True Stories investigation of the case due to be broadcast tomorrow. Peter Alphon has confessed twice before and then retracted. He has now provided a detailed statement claiming he was asked by an underworld acquaintance, who also knew Hanratty, to commit murder.

Geoffrey Bindman, solicitor for the Hanratty family, said yesterday: "There is now

overwhelming evidence to indicate that Hanratty had nothing to do with this crime. The programme, *Hanratty — The Mystery of Deadman's Hill*, points out there was never any forensic evidence against Hanratty who was picked out at an identity parade by Miss Storie who could not be swayed.

Both Hanratty and Alphon had been staying in a west London hotel where staff discovered several cartridges which matched the gun used in the killing. The programme accuses Alphon, who was the original police suspect, of lying to the police and says the Bedfordshire papers refute claims that he had air alibis. One source was his mother, who proved to be imprecise. The other was a member of

the hotel staff who did not see him until the day after the murder and was a doubtful witness.

The man who attacked the couple proved to be a very poor driver, which fitted Alphon but not Hanratty. Alphon refused to help the police by providing samples or handing over the clothes he wore on the day of the murder.

Alphon confessed originally and privately to Jeremy Fox, a barrister who became interested in the case. A man

said to be driven by the desire for £5,000 and a strong moral outlook, he made another confession in the mid-1980s and earlier this year provided Mr Fox with a new seven-page statement. The criminal go-between he named gave evidence against Hanratty and killed himself when Hanratty lost his appeal.

Yesterday the Home Office said they would look at any new evidence.

EC adopts single test for cars

After more than 20 years of debate within the European Community, trade ministers agreed in Brussels yesterday on a single technical standard for cars and lorries that will enable vehicles to be sold across borders without separate approvals from each national government. (George Brock writes).

The EC's internal market council passed the last three of 44 directives aligning national tests for new vehicles and allowing manufacturers to sell anywhere in the EC once a vehicle has passed the standard test in one nation.

Countries such as France and Italy have relied on national technical requirements to limit imports. France will no longer be able to insist that cars sold there have yellow headlights. The directives will come into force next January.

Jail cache find

Prison officers foiled a possible jail breakout yesterday when they found a cache of escape equipment in a workshop. The hoard, including a starting pistol, Stanley knife blades inserted into wooden handles and nylon string was found during a routine search of Garth prison, Lancashire. The prison houses up to 512 Category B inmates, including 100 serving life sentences.

Killer jailed

A man was jailed for life yesterday for stabbing to death a British tourist in Hamilton, New Zealand, in January. Wayne Paekau, aged 29, a salesman, pleaded guilty to murdering Margery Hopgood, aged 32, a solicitor from Earls Colne, Essex, whose body was found in a public lavatory. A charge of raping Miss Hopgood was withdrawn after forensic science tests.

Fast Maxwell

Kevin Maxwell, aged 33, son of the disgraced publisher Robert Maxwell, faces a driving ban after he pleaded guilty by letter to driving at up to 106mph on the M40 last December. Magistrates at Beaconsfield, Bucks, adjourned the hearing yesterday that Maxwell, from Chelmsford, could appear and give reasons why he should not be disqualified. Police chased and stopped him at 7.30am.

Pupils' protest

Several thousand schoolchildren marched through the centre of Belfast yesterday demanding an end to violence. The march, organised by pupils at Grosvenor High School, reached City Hall where balloons were released in memory of the victims of the troubles. The pupils said they rejected all men of violence and did not need paramilitaries.

Fake fortune

Detectives are hunting a gang of counterfeiters believed to have produced thousands of expertly forged £20 notes. The fakes have appeared all over the Midlands in the last month and £15,000-worth has been handed to police in Coventry. More have been found in North Yorkshire.

CORRECTION

The conversion from cubic feet to cubic metres mentioned in yesterday's story about the revised charging system for gas supplies, is achieved by multiplying the gas consumption, which is shown by gas meters in hundreds of cubic feet, by 2.83, and not by dividing.

Novice left holding joystick vows never to fly again

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A TERRIFIED passenger who safely landed a light aircraft on a wing and a prayer after the pilot died at the controls 2,000ft over the Welsh coast vowed yesterday never to fly again.

Alan Anderson, aged 24, was put under sedation after the ordeal that began when his prospective father-in-law slumped against the joystick after a heart attack.

Mr Anderson, who was talked down to a safe landing at Rhoose airport, Cardiff, by a flying instructor who answered his Mayday call and flew alongside, said: "I was absolutely terrified — it was only my second time in the air, and it will be my last. Nothing will get me on a plane again after what I've been through. I can't stop shaking."

Mr Anderson, who took over the dual controls and flew the four-seater aircraft for 22 minutes on Monday evening, added: "I was so lucky to get it down. I'm so grateful to the instructor. The aircraft, with Les

Rhoades, was over Swansea when Mr Rhoades said: "Shall we go over there?" and then collapsed.

Robert Legge, a flying instructor, was in the area in a Piper Warrior aircraft with a pupil when he heard the Mayday and flew to the air-

port. He told air traffic control as Legge spoke to Alan Anderson: "GAYDG, catching up with it over Penarth, near Cardiff airport."

With the pilot dead beside him, Mr Anderson, who had no previous flying experience, followed the south Wales coast back to the air-

port. He told air traffic control: "I'm in trouble. I'm scared. The pilot with me has had a heart attack. What can I do? I'm on my own up here. My life is in my own hands and I've got to do something about it."

Mr Anderson's mother, Carole Anderson, yesterday met Mr Legge at Cardiff Flying Club and told him: "You saved my son's life. Thank God for you."

Mr Anderson, unemployed at Llantrisant Major, South Glamorgan, was put under sedation for deep

running. In fact, can you see the red lever next to the throttle Delta?"

Legge: I can't.

Legge: Pull the red lever towards you.

Anderson: We are going down?

Legge: We are shortly, yes. Bank gently to the right. We are aiming for the white tarmac strip to the right of the white and red lights. Can you see it?

Anderson: Affirmative.

Legge: Pull back very gently on the control column. Close the throttle just, hold it there. Hold it. Hold it. Hold it. Hold the control column back... relax. OK. [Here the plane lands.] Press the top of the rudder pedals. You will find the brakes. Press both rudder pedals together... you will find the brakes.

Anderson: I can't find the brakes.

Legge: Don't worry. The emergency vehicles are coming behind you. Just sit in the aircraft... leave the engine

shock, and was comforted by Mr Rhoades' daughter, Alyson, aged 23.

Mr Anderson, a cleaner at RAF St Athan, said: "Alan is so shaken by it that he is in a terrible state. All he can say is that he will never fly again. He is just glad to be alive."

Mr Rhoades, who jointly owned the £25,000 aircraft with five friends, was a keen flyer and took friends up as a hobby. He was found to be dead upon arrival at hospital.

His widow, Swedish-born Barbara Rhoades, said: "I'm very sad about my husband, but I'm glad that Alan brought the plane down safely and that he's fine. It was a tremendous fear."

Mr and Mrs Rhoades had been married three years. Mr Rhoades has two children, Alyson and Matthew, who is 18.

The Civil Aviation Authority began an enquiry, although Mr Rhoades had passed a medical in the past year. The authority said that air traffic controllers at Rhoose had filed reports to its safety data unit.

£10m saves Holbein painting for the nation

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A HOLBEIN masterpiece scheduled to be auctioned in two weeks has been bought for the nation for £10 million. *Lady with a Pet Squirrel and a Starling* will be in the National Gallery, London, from April 28, alongside *The Ambassadors* and *Christina of Denmark*, also by Hans Holbein.

The deal, which ends three weeks of intense speculation, was clinched yesterday between Christie's, the auctioneers, and Jack Baer, the London dealer who acted for the gallery.

Lord Cholmondeley, the seller, turned down an offer of £8 million last week. He spent last weekend considering a revised offer of £10 million, making his final decision yesterday.

"This is great news," Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, and a contributor to the purchase price, said. "It has been a tense time not knowing whether this masterpiece would reach its rightful home in the National Gallery."

Roger Lane-Smith, Lord Cholmondeley's solicitor, said: "Lord Cholmondeley is very pleased at the outcome because it achieves a fair balance between his needs and the nation's desires." The money would be used "primarily for the maintenance" of Houghton, Lord Cholmondeley's home in Norfolk, he added.

Christie's said in a statement that the £10 million would "go only some way to preserving Houghton", prompting fears that this sale would not be Lord Chol-

mondeley's last. The price is a coup for Christie's. Although the auctioneers have been foiled in their attempt to boost a flagging market with the auction of this work, the £10 million theoretically established a record price for an old master painting — the painting would have had to sell for around £30 million at auction for Lord Cholmondeley to have ended up with the private treaty sale price. This is because £3 million would have gone in auctioneers' commission and around £16 million in tax at 60 per cent. The auction record is £22 million for a portrait by the Mannerist Italian artist Pontormo.

The price is all the more surprising considering that the negotiations knew that, following the furor surrounding the sale, the auction may have flopped. The likelihood of a long-term, or even permanent, export ban was a strong disincentive to buyers.

Now the National Gallery must mortgage its £2.75 million annual purchase grant for some years, as well as dipping into its £50 million gift from J. Paul Getty Junior. The National Heritage Memorial Fund has also pledged £3.5 million over three years, and the National Art Collections Fund £250,000. There is also the bill for Christie's, the agents.

The painting dates from Holbein's first stay in England, between 1526 and 1528, before he became court artist to Henry VIII. It was acquired by the third Earl of Cholmondeley in 1761 and passed by descent to the present owner.



Staying in Britain: the Holbein masterpiece

Eton joins battle for airwaves

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ETON College is taking on Frank Bough and several consortia of Asian businessmen in a hotly-contested battle to open a radio station for Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead.

The school, led by Sir David Nicholas, the former ITN chairman, and backed by Allied Radio, yesterday joined eight other groups bidding for the small local station, which will compete with 18 other stations for just 390,000 potential listeners.

The winner, to be announced in July, must persuade the Radio Authority that its output will appeal to a diverse audience ranging from Slough's large Asian and Afro-Caribbean population to well-to-do residents of Maidenhead and Windsor.

Mr Wogan, who has lived in the area for 22 years, has offered to appear occasionally as a presenter if his consortium is successful. The Eton bid promises to be "strong on news and local information" while offering "modern musical hits from the last 30 years". The bid follows a history of local involvement.

Why God is more than mere talk

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MADONNA says she won't be happy until she is as famous as God. Gypsy Lee Rose says: "God is love, but get it in writing." According to Paul McCartney, God isn't in a pill but LSD explained the mystery of life — "it was a religious experience". Asked how he would like to achieve immortality, Woody Allen replied: "By not dying."

Nietzsche may have stated that God was dead but the claim appears premature. Along with sex and politics, the deity remains one of mankind's perennial talking points. From interviews, newspaper cuttings and graffiti, Martin Wroe, a church warden, has assembled some of the resulting wisdom.

"I like to collect interesting sayings. The age of the sermon and the carefully prepared lengthy exposition is waning," he says. "Television has taught people only to think in short phrases and sound bites. I am a fan of the sound bite." "If there were no God, there would be no atheists," said G.K. Chesterton, while Woody Allen, much quoted on the matter, asks: "How can I believe in God when just last week I got my

God: What the Critics Say (Hodder & Stoughton, £5.99) published on April 16

New Scots wildlife body woos old foes

Scottish Natural Heritage plans to involve local people, write **Kerry Gill and John Hancox**

DUNCAN Antonio is not a happy man. As chairman of the Loch Sween action committee, which has protested over the possibility of the west coast loch being turned into Scotland's first marine nature reserve, he regarded the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland (NCCS) as "arrogant, academic and tacit".

At midnight last night the council ceased to exist. From today Scottish Natural Heritage will be responsible for the country's wide open spaces, from the Cairngorm wilderness to the newly-planned forests of the old industrial belt.

But Mr Antonio remains unimpressed. "There was considerable hostility towards the NCCS and changing the name will not help," he said.

It is people like Mr Antonio that Scottish Natural Heritage, formed out of the NCCS and the Countryside Commission for Scotland, will seek to reassure with a philosophy of devolved decision-making intended to tackle potentially explosive environmental rows at a local level.

Roger Crofts, the chief executive of SNH, said he and his 530 staff, working with a £34.6 million annual budget, would set up 13 area teams to decentralise care for the environment as much as possible. The organisation had

three main challenges, he said. Firstly it wants to encourage more access to areas within Scotland's industrial central belt. Up to 20,000 hectares will be planted with mixed trees over the next 20 to 30 years.

Secondly, SNH faces problems caused by too many visitors at places such as Loch Lomond and Strathspey. Working parties will report on the best environmental policies for these areas.

A third priority is the degradation caused by overgraz-

ing by sheep and deer which has denuded huge areas of the Highlands of foliage and trees.

"We would like to see farm subsidies continued but restructured so a sheep farmer is paid to be a manager of the environment instead of sim-

ply managing a sheep flock," said Mr Crofts.

In many areas deer have ruined vast tracts of upland. SNH envisages open forests in which properly managed herds can survive. Deer would be culled where overgrazing was out of hand.



Still unimpressed: action committee chairman Duncan Antonio, right, with salmon fish farm workers on Loch Sween

Manx lifts legal ban on gays

BY RONALD FAUX

THE Isle of Man government yesterday agreed by 11 votes to 11 to legalise sexual acts in private between consenting men.

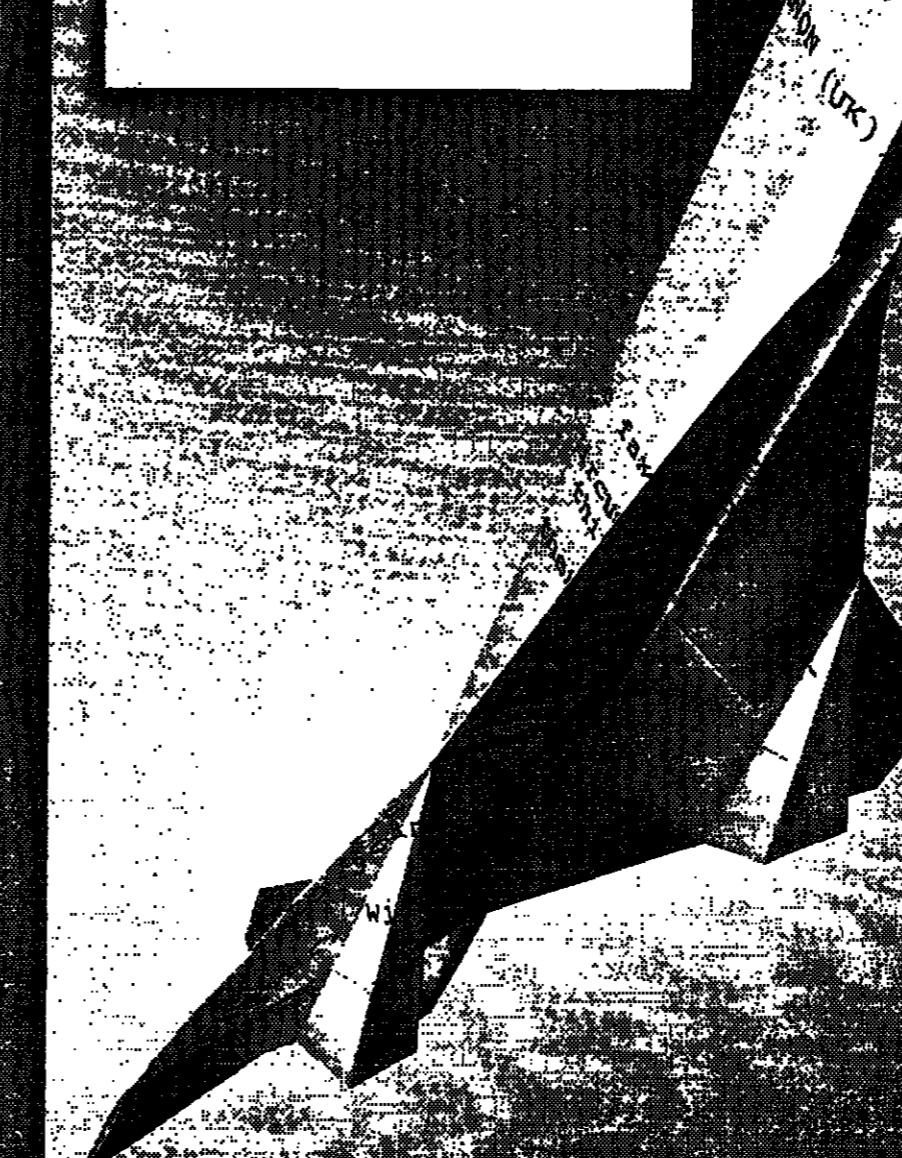
Acceptance of the amendment to the island's laws on sex was moved by Miles Walker, the chief minister. It is the first time that the Manx government has moved towards bringing homosexual legislation into line with the mainland and with the European convention on human rights.

The bill will go next week for its third reading in the House of Keys. Three readings before the legislative council follow, after which the measure is expected to receive royal assent.

Yesterday's five-hour debate in the House of Keys followed pressure from Westminster to come into line with Britain and most of Europe on the issue. A constitutional rift with the British government was feared if the Manx government once more defied London. Some Manx politicians claimed that a dangerous precedent would be set for more interference from London.

The measure was heavily defeated last year, but six new members of the House of Keys swung the issue.

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£60,000 for nurse held in £20 note row

A NURSE who was detained by a shop manager, on suspicion of passing a counterfeit banknote received £60,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Eleanor Robinson, aged 47, had sued Dorothy Perkins for damages for wrongful imprisonment, assault, shock, distress and an injured shoulder after she was held at the fashion chain's store in Wood Green, north London, in July 1988.

On the second day of the hearing Dorothy Perkins, which still denied liability, agreed to pay the damages and legal costs of more than £5,000 to the widowed mother of three adult children.

But her counsel, Matthias Kelly, told Mr Justice Tudor Evans and a jury of eight women and four men: "It is a matter of some sadness to Mrs Robinson that the defendants have not had the good grace to apologise to her."

The court heard how Mrs Robinson of Islington, north London, paid for an £8 jacket

with a £20 note. She was taken to an office by the manager Ian Shaw, and prevented from leaving until police arrived and confirmed that the note was an old design but valid.

When she had tried to leave there was a struggle, said Mr Kelly. Mr Shaw put an arm round her neck and jerked back her right shoulder, causing her pain. She was pulled back into the room and a security guard stood by the door.

She claimed Mr Shaw forcibly restrained her, injuring her right arm and shoulder. This had affected her nursing career as she had difficulty lifting patients. She had to abandon a course in neurological nursing and had lost the chance of a staff job, she said.

Outside the court Mrs Robinson said: "I am happy and glad it is all over. I have not set foot inside a Dorothy Perkins store again after the humiliating and terrible experience and I never will."



Ship shape: David Goddard, director of Exeter maritime museum, arranges canoes in preparation for its reopening today. The museum, which closed last November, has been rescued by Isca, a charity which owns the collection of 200 traditional working boats

Let's be practical. Who hasn't dreamt of the excitement of driving a nippy little sports car only to realise it may cramp more than just their style.

But which racquet-laden, ski-bearing sporty type could resist throwing his all into the open-back of a Mazda 323 GT Fastback?

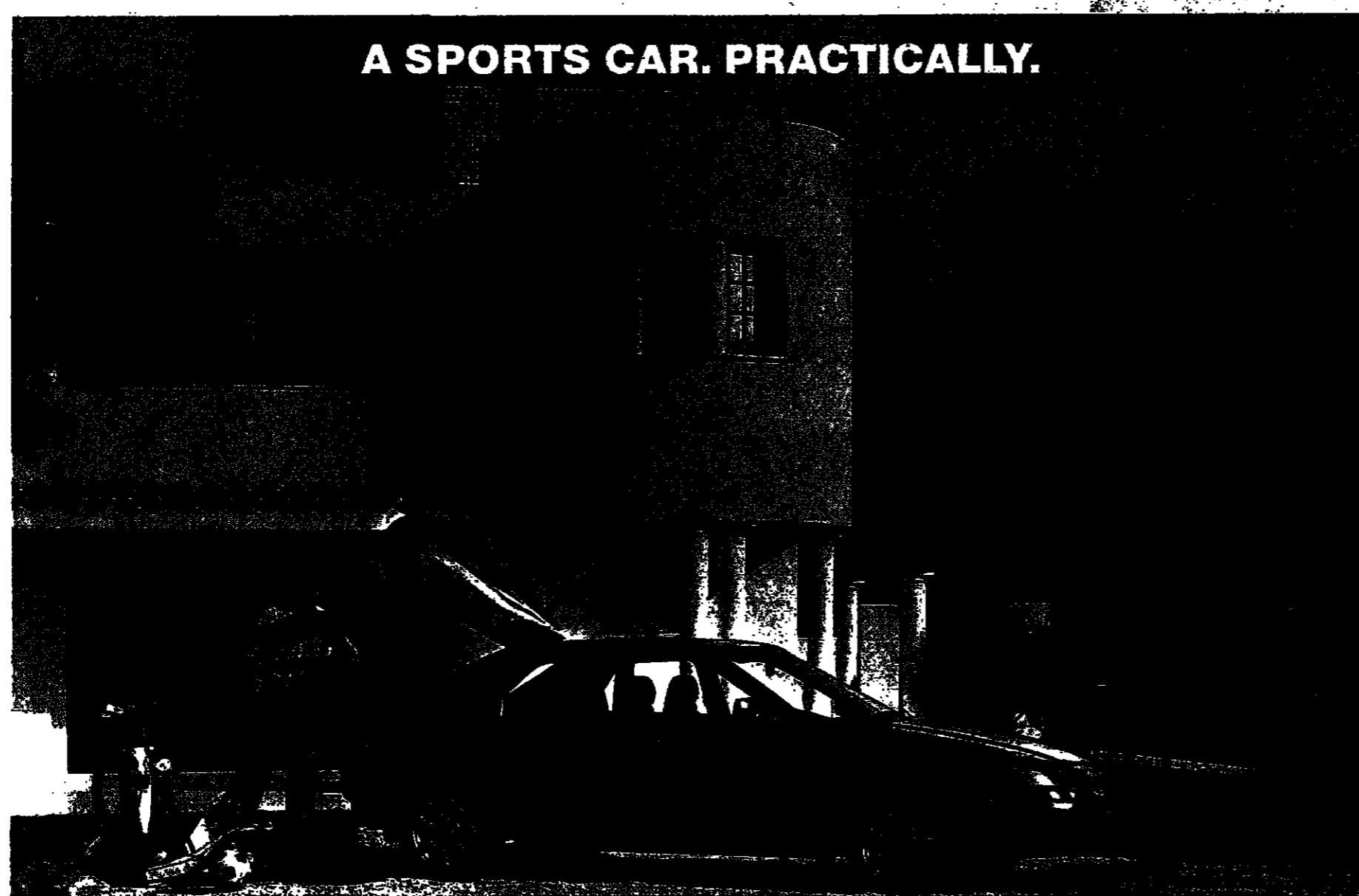
With its stylishly designed wedge-shape, retractable headlights and distinctively rounded

because it's a Mazda we'll be good sports and won't charge you extra for them.

The range covers 3 door hatchbacks, 4 door saloons, and of course, 5 door Fastbacks, complete with comprehensive three year warranties.

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What Car's slowest depreciators.

In fact the 323 GT Fastback (shown above) has a 1.8 litre 16-valve multi-point fuel injected engine capable of 0-60 in 8.1 seconds off the blocks, and a top speed of 125mph. Not bad for a car with up to 18 cu. ft. of boot space, more than enough room to swing a bat.

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Police had no right to keep raid documents

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief constable of Lancashire had no right to retain documents unlawfully seized from the homes of two Preston councillors last year, the High Court said yesterday.

The police had seized the documents under defective warrants, Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Jowitt said. The court said that officers had not produced to the men a list of items sought, and also that the police had no "general right" to keep the material as evidence.

The court was giving its reasons for earlier last month ordering the chief constable, Brian Johnson, to return the documents to Harold Parker, leader of the council, and Frank McGrath, chairman of the controlling Labour group. The items were seized during an enquiry into land deals.

The councillors, awarded costs against the police, plan to seek exemplary damages. The claim is not expected to be heard until after Mr McGrath's trial under the 1968 Theft Act.

Property slump cuts living costs

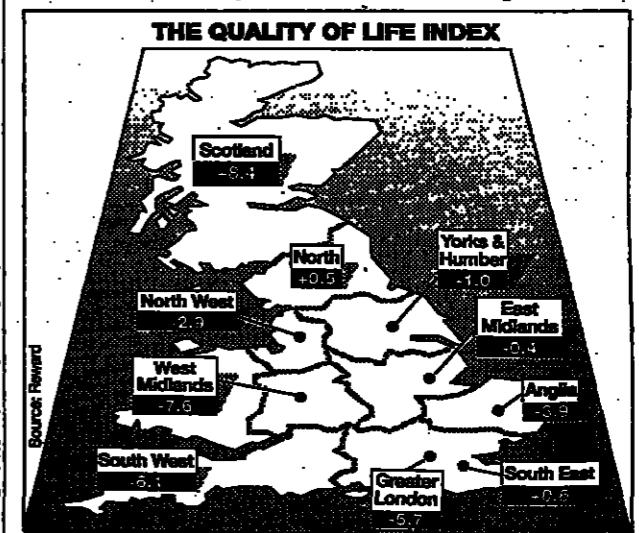
BY DAVID YOUNG

THE cost of living has fallen faster during the past year than at any time since 1976 — but the average person is unlikely to have noticed, according to Reward, the pay research specialists.

The latest Reward survey of the cost of living shows that the fall in house prices, the cut in mortgage interest rates and lower household rates and poll tax bills over the past year have meant that housing costs have dropped by 17.6 per cent.

That has pushed down the Reward index for Required Incomes — the earnings needed to maintain living standards — by 4 per cent compared with 1991.

But despite this significant drop, Reward says that the "man in the street" is unlikely to say that his cost of living has fallen. The reason, says the company, is that the costs of goods and services, excluding housing, have risen by 7.8 per cent since February 1991. This rate almost matches the 7.3 per cent figure for the underlying inflation for the underlying inflation.



The quality of life index is based on the average salary for a middle manager for the region compared with the national average salary, and the average cost of living for the region compared with the national average. The cost element is subtracted from the salary to produce the index.

New law aims to dump fly-tippers

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVERY company boss in Britain will need to know from today where his rubbish ends up, or face a heavy fine or even prison.

Under a new duty of care in waste management, which comes into effect today, every company will be legally responsible for the proper disposal of its own waste, from its packaging through transportation to its incineration or burial.

The law, brought in under the 1990 Environment Protection Act, is designed to combat cheap, but possibly illegal, disposal options, in particular use of fly-tippers, who dump in unauthorised places and who are sometimes organised on a criminal basis. There are thought to be a million tons of fly-tipped waste in Greater London at any one time, and other large cities suffer similarly.

Firms will have to take steps to satisfy themselves that their waste is being properly taken care of after

it has left them. That means packing it safely, describing it accurately, keeping records of it, checking that the firm that removes it is licensed and that it ends at a suitable site.

The environment department said: "Hitherto the only control has been on disposal sites, which are licensed. Yet a lot of waste may never get there, or be sent to an inappropriate site, or be improperly mixed or described when it does arrive. For the first time we are extending responsibility to producers of waste, and waste carriers."

The "duty of care" was recommended by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 1985, which in its report quoted the remark of the naturalist Frank Fraser Darling: "Most pollution comes from getting rid of waste at the least possible cost."

Officers may face an unlimited fine or five-year prison sentence.

Police had no right to keep raid documents

By FRANCIS GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief constable of Lancashire has had no right to keep documents lawfully seized in the course of a raid as a possession, has ruled yesterday. The police had seized the documents, along with other evidence, from the flat of Mr. Justice Peter Smith, a former judge, at his home in Chorley, Lancashire, on March 26. The documents were seized because they were believed to be evidence of a criminal offence, but the police had no right to keep them, the judge said.

The court will now decide whether to accept the police's argument that the documents are "evidence in the course of an investigation" and so are not subject to the usual rules of evidence. The court will also decide whether the documents are "evidence in the course of an investigation" and so are not subject to the usual rules of evidence.

slump in costs

GOING

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LIFE INDEX

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aims to
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McCARTHY
CONTRIBUTION

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Evidence on radiation link 'flawed'

Scientists doubt pylon cables cause cancer

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

EXPERTS who have studied claims that power lines and domestic electrical appliances may be related to cancer say they are doubtful that a link exists. After two years of research, an advisory group headed by Sir Richard Doll, the Oxford University professor, has concluded that most of the studies purporting to show links between non-ionising radiation and cancers are flawed. The only research that may be sound shows a weak link to a small number of brain cancer cases. Even this evidence is described as "less impressive than might appear".

The advisory group studied research linking electrical field exposure with cancers including tumours of the brain, gonads and breasts. Studies linking power lines and clusters of childhood leukaemias, and examining doses to people living near radar and television transmitters, were also looked at.

Roger Clarke, director of

the National Radiological Protection Board, which ordered the study, said yesterday that the work showed "no clear evidence of a carcinogenic hazard from normal levels of power frequency electromagnetic fields, radiofrequency or microwave radiation".

Sir Richard, who is based at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Cancer Studies Unit at Oxford, said that "there was no good evidence" linking cancers to power lines and electrical equipment which operates at less than 100,000 hertz.

Most domestic equipment operates at 50Hz, as do power lines. Microwave cookers do operate at higher frequencies but users are protected by shielding.

The group did accept that some workers involved in activities such as welding or working with television transmitters and electrically powered furnaces could be at risk of doses above 100,000

Hz. However, laboratory studies that have claimed a link between these high levels of exposure and cancers may have ignored the effects of local tissues heating that can be a consequence of working with such devices. Sir Richard said.

• A genetic flaw in some people could put them at risk of certain types of skin cancer, a seminar was told yesterday.

Research indicates that the flaw impairs the body's immune system when exposed to sunlight, making it unable to attack cancer cells in the upper layers of the skin.

Wayne Strelle, a cancer researcher, told delegates to the American Cancer Society seminar in St Petersburg, Florida, that the findings could lead to a genetic test to screen those at risk.

Electromagnetic Fields and the Risk of Cancer. Report of an Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation. NRPB. (Stationery Office, £10)



Apocalypse then: Baldassare Conticello, curator of the exhibition 'Rediscovering Pompeii', which opens today in Kensington, London, with the body of a female victim of the first century eruption of Vesuvius

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Drivers carrying three can park free

Drivers in Exeter are being offered free parking if they have three or more people in the car (David Young writes).

In the "Park free with three" scheme run by the city and county councils to reduce congestion and exhaust pollution, part of a long-stay car park will be corded off. An attendant will check the number of people in each car and give qualifying cars stickers exempting them from parking patrols.

The city council expects to lose money in lost parking revenues but hopes that the scheme will reduce traffic jams and carbon monoxide emissions. It will run for a six-month trial and 50 places will be allocated for drivers arriving between 7.15am and 9.15am.

Dead recluse had £50,000

A recluse who lived in abject poverty, and who had lain dead for several weeks in his flat before being found, had more than £50,000 in cash and company shares, an inquiry was told yesterday.

John Hanley, aged 66, a former cleaner, had £530 of the cash in his flat in Walworth, southeast London. There was no food and the only furniture was a mattress and rug on the floor and a deck chair. Southwark coroner's court was told. Mr Hanley was found dead on March 2 after neighbours called police. An open verdict was recorded.

Cyclist killed

THE Great British Breakfast, as eaten on British railways, is going continental. InterCity has been invited to serve its best-selling breakfast for a week on the 7.05am Paris to Brussels EuroCity express.

On the return journey, leaving Brussels at 5.10pm, an InterCity crew will serve a British dinner menu, featuring British lamb and salmon. The experiment starts on April 6. In return, Wagons Lits, the French train restaurant operators, will be invited to put French meals on British trains.

Terry Coyle, director of InterCity's on-board services, said that the invitation, from Wagons Lits, came as no surprise. InterCity sold 25,000 sandwiches on its trains, making it Britain's third largest sandwich retailer. The British breakfast originated on InterCity trains and had always been popular.

"InterCity catering is seen as the envy of most other European train companies. We would not be doing this if we thought it would not be totally successful," he said.

A continental British breakfast, for InterCity have those too, will cost 65 francs (£5.70) but the cooked breakfast — bacon, pork sausage, choice of eggs, spicy black pudding, mushrooms, tomatoes, sauté potatoes and fried bread — will be an extra 82 francs, taking the total to £13.15. Dinner, costing 210 francs (£21.65), will be preceded by a cocktail of sparkling English wine.

Blouses stolen

A lorry delivering 400 boxes of women's blouses to Canning Town, east London, was hijacked by three men wearing black balaclavas and taken to Rayleigh in Essex, where the driver was left tied up in his cab and the trailer unhooked and driven off.

Raid victim

Hilda Jones, aged 91, a widow, who was attacked and beaten in her home at Hodson, Wiltshire, last week by a man who stole £60, has had her left eye removed in an operation.

Videos checked

Librarians in Suffolk are checking hundreds of video films after a mother complained that a children's 'Watch with Mother' tape she hired contained ten minutes of a pornographic film.

Democracy is just a phone call away

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL tax payers who are tempted to blame the town hall for all their troubles are being given a lesson in practical municipal decision-making. Their council is asking them to decide how to spend part of its budget.

South Norfolk district council has set aside £5,000 for an open lesson in which the district's 103,000 residents are being invited to allocate scarce resources. The idea is to make people aware of the difficult decisions faced by councillors trying to satisfy ever increasing demands on the public purse from a limited budget.

Voters are being given a choice of five equally worthy projects on which to spend the £5,000. From Thursday they can register their preferences by dialling one of five telephone numbers at the council. Using its computerised switchboard, the council will count the calls to each line and allocate the cash to the one which gets most calls by April 21.

The "Democracy Dial-in" will offer voters the choice of spending the money on picnic seats at beauty spots, wheelchairs for the elderly, a concert, tree planting or a drive against food poisoning in restaurants and take-away premises.

Conservative and Liberal Democratic councillors share control of the council but Adrian Kelllett, the chief executive, said that the phone-in had nothing to do with it being a hung council.

"This is in no sense a referendum," he said. "If it was we would disenfranchise everyone without easy access to a phone. The idea is to help people realise how difficult these kind of decisions can be."

The exercise was prompted by market research which found that few local people understood what the council did or how it did it. "This way they find out by tackling the issues themselves," Mr Kelllett said.

South Norfolk had been Tory controlled since its creation in 1974 until last May. Now the Liberal Democrats and the Tories have 22 seats each with three independents holding the balance. Mr Kelllett said that the council was a model of co-operation with both parties sharing the chairmanship of committees.

"National politicians facing the prospect of a hung parliament could do a lot worse than come here to see how it can be done without acrimony," he said. "Our councillors are proud of their ability to work together."

Drivers
carrying
three can
park free

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THE TIMES

ELECTION 92

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1992

7

Times/Mori poll

Labour with Smith
as leader would
be beyond catching

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour party, which has moved into a clear lead in the latest opinion polls, would be invincible in this election if John Smith were its leader instead of Neil Kinnock.

In the latest Mori survey, respondents were asked how they would vote if Mr Smith were party leader instead of Mr Kinnock. The result was a 4.5 per cent swing in Labour's favour.

Instead of Labour leading the Tories by seven points on 42-35, as they now do under Mr Kinnock, their margin under Mr Smith would be 16 points. They would lead by 49 per cent to 33, with the Liberal Democrats down from 19 per cent to 16 per cent.

Mr Smith would keep all the supporters his party has under Mr Kinnock as well as bringing over 5 per cent of those intending now to vote Conservative and 7 per cent of supporters of the Liberal Democrats.

But the Conservatives appear to be suffering more from their record than from any defect in the prime minister's personality. For all the glamour of his campaigning style, the Tories would not be significantly better off with Michael Heseltine as their leader instead of John Major. When Mori asked how people would vote if he had the job, the swing to the Conservatives was a mere 1.5 per cent, cutting Labour's lead from 7 points to 4 at 41-37.

If Mr Heseltine were leader, 3 per cent of the present Conservative supporters would go to the Liberal Democrats while 5 per cent of Labour supporters would come over to the Conservatives and 3 per cent of Liberal Democrats would do so. If Labour were led by Mr Smith and the Conservatives by Mr

Heseltine, party support overall would be Labour 46 per cent, Conservatives 34 per cent and Liberal Democrats 17 per cent, with others on 3 per cent.

Mr Major continues to lead his rivals on leadership qualities. When people were asked to name the most capable prime minister, 38 per cent chose him, compared with 29 per cent who opted for Mr Kinnock and 21 per cent for Paddy Ashdown. But Mr Kinnock has closed the gap from thirteen points at the start of the election to nine points now.

The Liberal Democrats, who launched their campaign to counter the "wasted vote" argument yesterday, appeared initially to have benefited from last week's brouhaha over the Jennifer Bennett Labour election broadcast and to be resisting the traditional squeeze on third parties. But they have slipped a little in the latest Mori survey.

When people were asked in the first Mori/Times survey on March 11-12 how they would vote if they thought that the Liberal Democrats were likely to win in their constituency, the poll finding was Liberal Democrats 35, Labour 33 and Conservatives 29 per cent. By the March 23 survey that was up to Liberal Democrats 41, Labour 28 and Conservatives 29. But in the latest survey, conducted on Monday, the answer to the question was Liberal Democrats 38 per cent, Labour 32 per cent and Conservatives 28 per cent.

One factor in the Liberal Democrat slippage may be that the country is showing a positive distaste for the prospect of a hung parliament. Mori asked simply: "On balance, do you think that a

hung parliament, with no party having an overall majority, would be good or bad for Britain?" More than half those questioned (56 per cent) said that it would be bad for Britain and only a quarter (26 per cent) said that it would be good, with 18 per cent expressing no opinion.

Although Mr Ashdown has insisted that his party is not campaigning for a hung parliament, much attention has focused on the Liberal Democrats' role as potential coalition partners if there were to be one. Conservative supporters are 69-19 against the idea, Labour opposed by 56-25 per cent and even Liberal Democrat supporters are only marginally in favour at 44 per cent to 42 per cent.

Health continues to dominate the list when people are asked to name the two or three issues most important to them in deciding how to vote in the election. It is named by 56 per cent (up 10 per cent since the election began). Education is a clear second on 36 per cent (35), with unemployment third on 23 per cent (27). The repeated Conservative focus on taxation has still lifted it only from 10 per cent to 15 per cent in the issues table.

When people were asked which party had the best policies in different areas, the Conservatives had a margin of only five points over Labour on what they hoped would be the strong points of their campaign, taxation and managing the economy.

They led Labour 30-31 on managing the economy and 38-33 on taxation. The Tories also led by 27 points (48-21) on defence and by 14 points (40-26) on law and order. But Labour led by 26 (46-20) on unemployment, by 23 (49-26) on health care, by 20 (42-22) on replacing the poll tax and by 15 (41-23) on education.

Labour also leads on a subject that the Conservatives had hoped to use in their favour in the election. Mr Kinnock and his party are reckoned to have the best policies on trade unions by 38 per cent to 35 per cent.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,080 adults aged 18-plus face to face in 54 constituency sampling points on Monday. Data were weighted by gender, age, class and region.

Labour lead, page 1

CAPABLE PRIME MINISTER?

Q Who do you think would make the most capable Prime Minister?

Don't know 12% Major 38%

Ashdown 21% Kinnock 29%

Source: Mori

HUNG PARLIAMENT

Q On balance, do you think that a hung parliament... would be good or bad for Britain?

Don't know 18% Good 26%

Bad 56%

Source: Mori

Public sector pay

Index plan denied by Cunningham

BY ROBIN OAKLEY

JACK Cunningham insisted yesterday that Labour would not index the pay of public sector workers to ensure that it kept pace with the private sector. His statement came as the party sought to play down the disclosure of a "smoking memo" from one of John Smith's economic advisers.

He insisted Labour wanted to stop the deterioration in public sector pay which, he said, led to 30 per cent of teachers leaving the profession within a short time of their training. But he declared: "There is no question of indexing. There is no question of secret deals. We do not intend to spend money we can't afford."

Dr Cunningham, Labour's campaign coordinator, came under pressure yesterday to explain how Labour would meet its manifesto promise to "halt the deterioration which has taken place in the pay and conditions of many public service workers". Asked where the money would come from, since Labour was pledged not to increase borrowing further or to increase taxes beyond current plans, Dr Cunningham stuck to the formula that all would be within "strict budgetary controls". This would involve no more funds than those already outlined in the Treasury red books for the next two years.

Later, at the Tory news conference in London, Chris Patten, the party chairman, described the *Daily Mail's* story as "shattering" and said the disclosures destroyed Mr Smith's credibility.

"They show the Labour Party has been considering a special secret deal with the trade unions and also cast light on Labour's plans for tax increases," he said.

A Labour party spokesman confirmed that Mr Graham was one of several economic advisers to Mr Smith. But he said none of Labour's treasury team had any knowledge of the proposals, said to be contained in documents which the party had not seen.

Clockroaches are the number one political issue in Bethnal Green and Stepney. Tory hopes sometimes cheer themselves with the thought that it could be worse: they could be Conservative candidate for Bethnal Green and Stepney.

Yesterday he went canvassing with her, and found a gutsy Yorkshire woman, with not a hope in hell, having a whale of a time. Cockroaches have invaded Tower Hamlets. The council blames the central heating, the white East-enders blame the Bangladeshis, and the Bangladeshis blame the council. Caught between the electorate and the cockroaches is Jane Emmerison.

On this occasion she was not wearing her sarf. "Edwin Currie lent it to me," she said. "It goes down well with the Bangladeshis in Brick Lane. But best avoid it with the white East-enders. Tactless, don't you think? Good-o! Good-o is her war cry.

The other way: Liberals scurried round like rats telling them that only the Liberal Democrat candidate can get Peter Shore out. So I have to get them up. But separately from the Old East-end whites. But not forgetting the Bangladeshis in Brick Lane. But best avoid it with the white East-enders. Tactless, don't you think? Good-o! Good-o is her war cry.

"Good-o!" she yelled to a yuppie in a Hermes scarf walking by St Katherine's Dock. "This is the posh part," Jane grunted, "they don't like the Bangladeshis to live near them but at least they aren't going to vote for the British National party candidate — which is frankly a danger with some of my whites in Bethnal Green."

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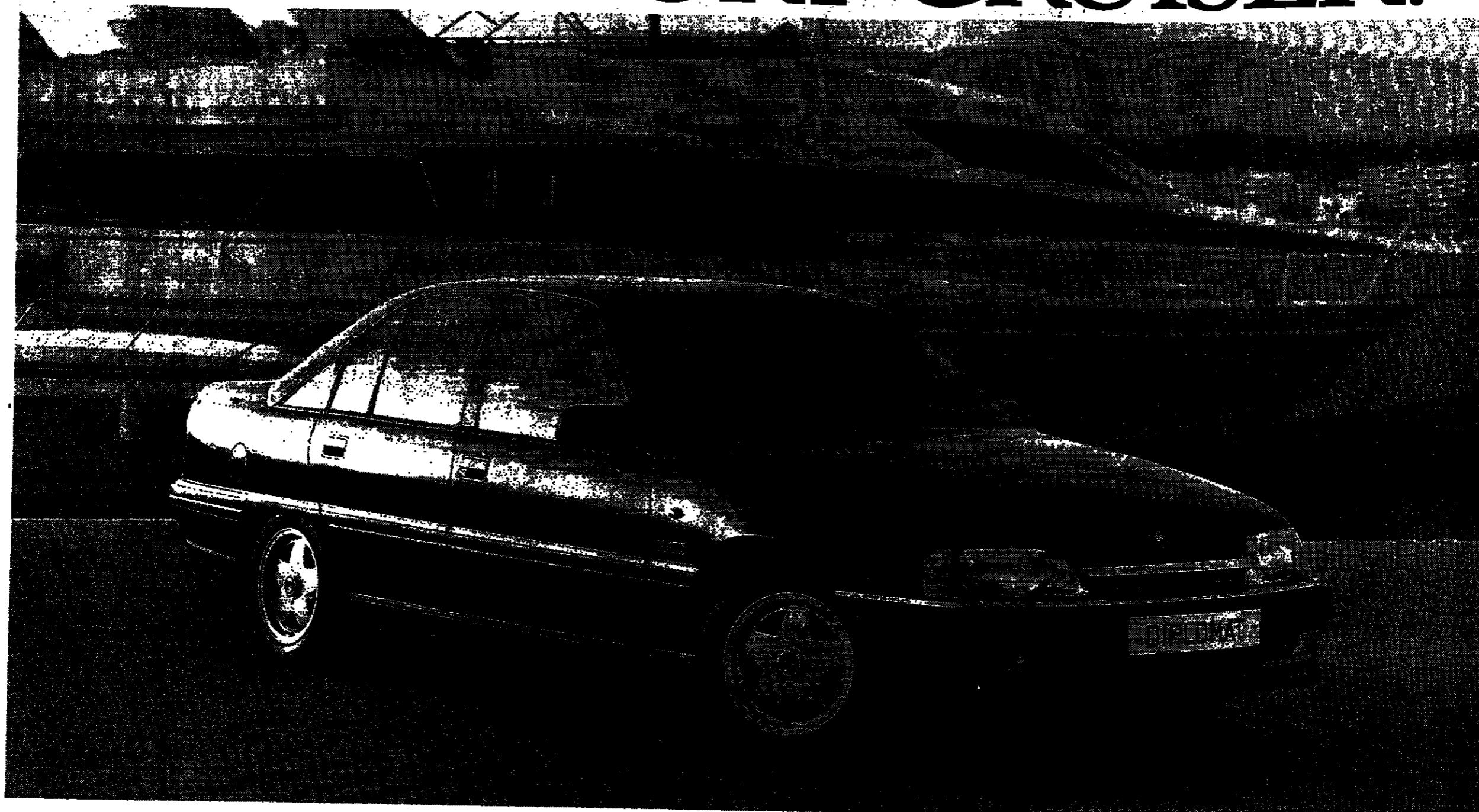
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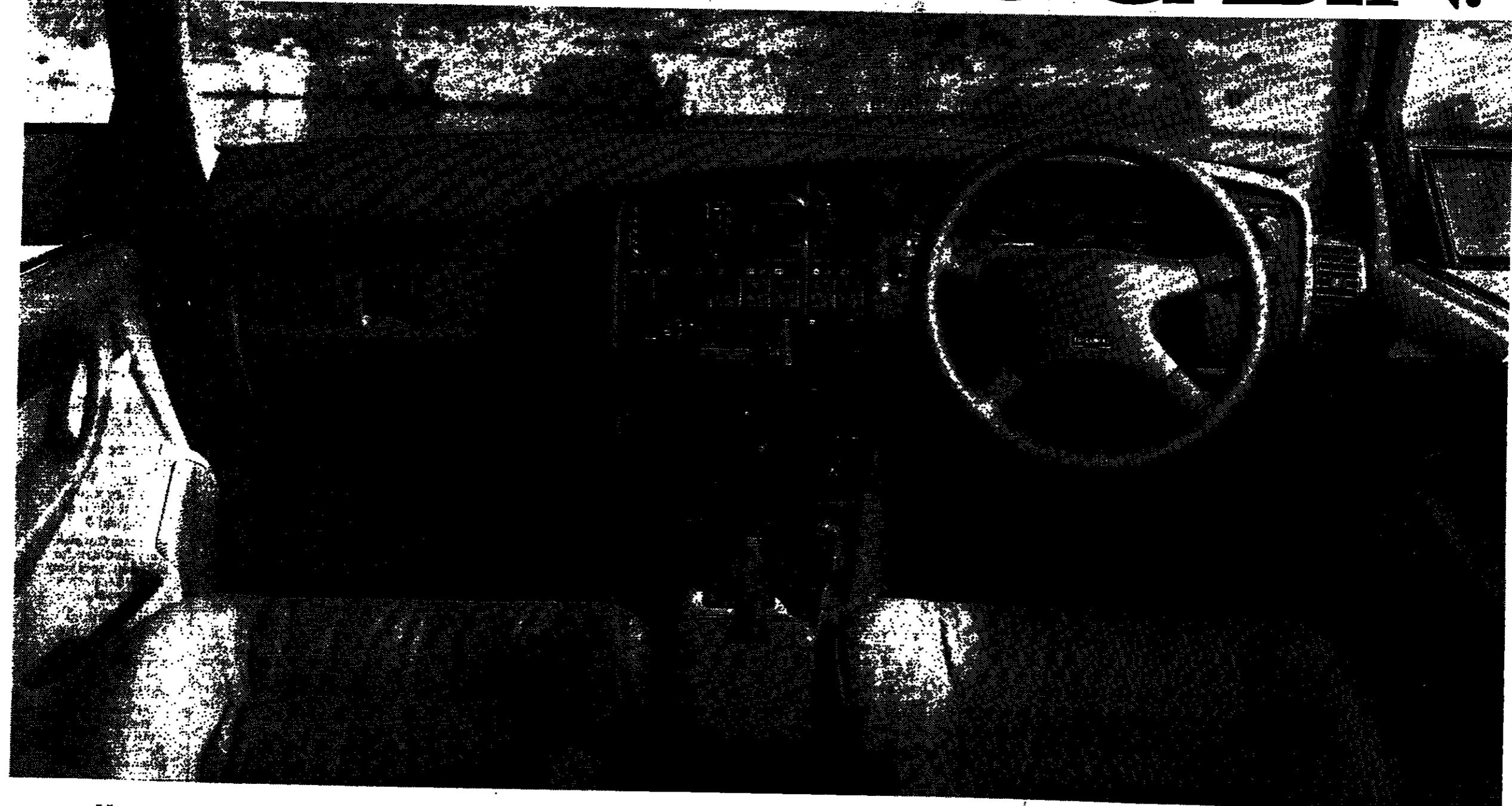
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Uphill struggle: Paddy Ashdown in Inverness, supporting Scotland's beleaguered Lib Dems

How hacks suffer on the stump

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown and the media followers who paid four-figure sums to join his odyssey were busy telling the world of the progress of his attempt to revolutionise British politics.

Outside, it was snowing. Through the steamed-up coach windows on the Inverness to Aberdeen road yesterday could be spied dozens of mobile phones being shaken frantically, lap-top computers balanced on squashed knees, cameramen trapped in their seats by ladders and other paraphernalia. Plaintive cries of: "Hello, hello, you're breaking up," could be heard.

Relayed to newspapers and television stations from the bus were details of the party's winning vote strategy. Mr Ashdown's thoughts on the Labour-Tory tax and education plans and thoughts on Scottish independence.

His campaign had been stepped up a gear for the last full week of campaigning. However, most of yesterday's ambitious programme of walkabout and photo-opportunities in Scotland had to be torn up when an aircraft overran Aberdeen runway, closing the airport for six hours.

The campaigning day starts with the 7.15 press conference in London and ends when Ashdown One descends 40-odd bodies many miles later around midnight at Heathrow's VIP centre. A

Major goes adrift on the Falklands

JOHN Major maintained his assault on the leadership qualities of Neil Kinnock yesterday by contrasting his own new soapbox style with the Labour leader's more closely controlled campaigning approach.

But his attempt to play the Falklands card against the Labour leader, suggesting that he might be ready to give up the sovereignty of the islands, came unstuck when it emerged that Mr Kinnock had been wronged in reports about his stance on their future.

In an historical allusion that may have escaped some of his audience in the centre of Chester, Mr Major invoked the memory of Lenin travelling to St Petersburg to stir up the Russian revolution. Interrupted by a 72-year-old Labour heckler, Mr Major said: "It is nice to see a member of the Labour party that does not have a sealed train, secreted from the rest of the world."

He was on thin ground, however, when he attacked Mr Kinnock over the Falklands. Referring to a report in *The Daily Telegraph*, he criticised the Labour leader for suggesting that a Labour government might consider a change in the status of the islands. He told a crowd of Tory supporters and shoppers: "I wonder what message that gives to the soldiers, airmen and navy men who fought in that war and to the people who still live there." Mr Kinnock had been reported

John Major had a mixed day on his travelling soapbox yesterday, reports Philip Webster

as having said that Labour would be prepared to consider a change in the status of the Falklands provided there were enforceable security guarantees.

Later, however, it emerged that Mr Kinnock had been doing no more than restating long-standing party policy because in remarks which had not been reported he had also said: "There cannot be anything done without the active consent of the people of the Falkland Islands. Too much has been expended, loyalty is too great, the status is too important for there to be any abandonment of the needs and desires of the people of the Falkland Islands."

Mr Major gave another forceful performance on his travelling soapbox, but he was woefully short of serious hecklers until the elderly Tom Branigan obliged with a cry of "rubbish". Mr Major gladly seized on his interruption to welcome him. "With a bit of luck he will follow me wherever I and my soapbox go. Whenever I go between now and April 9 this soapbox is coming with me. There is no way people will stop the Conservative message getting right on to the streets."

IAN Lang, the Scottish secretary, is increasingly looking like the head of a defeated army who faces capture himself. Not only did a new poll yesterday suggest that he was highly likely to lose his seat in Galloway, but the Tories may also have only the fourth largest group of MPs from north of the border at Westminster after April 9.

The Tories have lost their way, unpopular both because of their general record and because they appear to have been left behind by the debate about Scotland's constitutional future. Party leaders are mainly fighting an exercise in damage limitation.

Almost whatever happens in Britain as a whole, the constitutional position of Scotland will change. My main impression from visiting Edinburgh and Glasgow is that the status quo is no longer sustainable and that most Scots no longer believe it can be sustained.

Opinion polls have consistently shown only 20 to 25 per cent favouring no change. Significantly, a survey carried out for the newspaper *Scotland on Sunday* of half those mentioned in *Who's Who in Scotland* shows 41 per cent favouring the status quo, but nearly two in three of the business and financial lead-

ers oppose any change and recently there have been expressions of increasing public alarm from that sector about the disruptive effects.

A move away from Westminster rule is regarded by many as desirable and probable. That is partly because many of those now at the top in Scottish life came through the devolution debates of the Seventies. They have thought about the issue.

Opposition to the status quo begs the key question whether to move to a devolved assembly with tax-raising powers and control over much domestic policy, as favoured by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, or independence within the European Community, as urged by the Scottish nationalists and backed by just over 35 per cent of voters. John Major and Mr Lang have argued strongly for the union, opposing not only independence but also a devolved assembly

as leading to higher public spending as well as inevitable tensions with Westminster.

The Tories' doubts are not irrelevant. After devolution, what would be the position of Scottish MPs at Westminster? Should Scotland's over-representation be ended? (To have constituencies the same

size as in England there would have to be 58 Scottish MPs, not 72.)

In political terms, the Tories have lost the initiative in face of the change of mood. They have tried to isolate Labour by polarising the debate as a choice between union and separation, although that could rebound. The government's unpopularity, underpinned by the failure of

Thatcherism to take root in Scotland, has linked opposition to the Tories with the call for constitutional change.

At present, the Tories stand to be the main short-term losers from the election. Although their vote is within a couple of points of its 1987 level of 24 per cent, the party may suffer from the much greater development of tactical voting in Scotland than in England. The SNP is widely expected to defeat Mr Lang and two of his colleagues, Bill Walker and Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, and the Tories may also be vulnerable to Labour in a couple of seats. Overall, although they could manage the odd surprise gain in the lottery of a four-party system, the Tories may drop to only five or six MPs from their present nine, out of 72.

Labour is expected to consolidate its big advance of 1987 and may raise its total of 49 by at least two or three. On paper, the Liberal Democrats should be in difficulties with their vote now at half the 1987 level of 19 per cent. But many Lib Dem candidates have strong local positions in the Borders, Grampian and the Highlands. So the party may lose only a couple of its ten seats, in Argyll and Inverness. To avoid a further squeeze, the Liberal Democ-

rats are pushing Sir David Steel to the fore.

The big uncertainty is the SNP, whose support is nearly twice its 14 per cent of 1987. The SNP offers a simple message, independence within Europe. Talking yesterday to Jim Sillars, its deputy leader, I had a sense of the uncompromising passion which, by offering a blunt assertion of neighbourhood, has appealed to younger people who dislike the Tories and regard Labour as a distant establishment. Labour candidates admit some vulnerability to the SNP among younger working-class people living on housing estates. al-

● The Tories stand to be the main short-term losers from the election

though the party has been picking up support from Liberal Democrats and disgruntled Tories.

However, on present figures, the SNP will do well to double its present group of four MPs (minus one former Labour member) and may have fewer votes and MPs than in October 1974.

If the national polls put the Tories ahead this weekend,

Labour fears that its vote could drop in the face of an SNP argument that only a strong nationalist showing will change the status quo. Such a rise at Labour's expense could benefit the Tories.

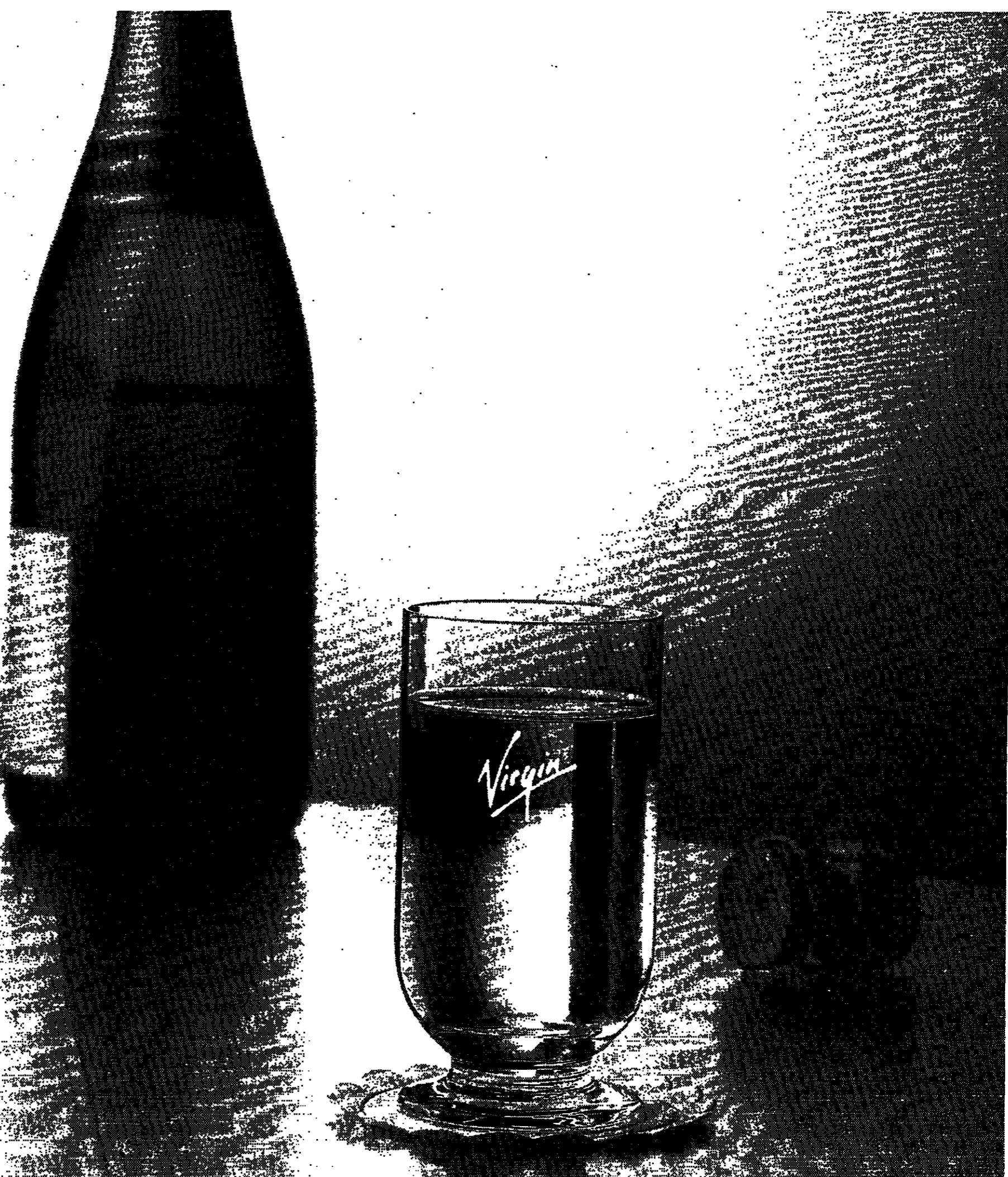
Mr Major has said that he will "take stock" after the election. A serious setback for the Tories would enable him to override the split between hardliners such as Michael Forsyth who have argued for a clear choice between union and independence and those favouring a modified devolved assembly, as Malcolm Rifkind did in the Seventies. Many English Tories are well aware of the advantages to them in reducing the impact of Labour's large number of Scottish MPs.

If Labour wins outright, or with support from the Liberal Democrats, there will be early legislation for a Scottish parliament. In one sense the constitutional arguments will start in earnest then about the relations of such a parliament with Westminster and the implications for the rest of Britain. That in turn could open up a debate about constitutional change for England and Wales. The election in Scotland is not a parochial matter; it concerns everyone in Britain.

Scots Tories find themselves out on a limb

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

Change in Scotland seems inevitable, writes Peter Ridgell



Virgin introduces the first still champagne.

The lavish hospitality of Virgin Atlantic is legendary. (we won Best In-flight Entertainment and Best Food 1992). However the 11,000 bottles of free champagne enjoyed on board our Upper Class service have given us some cause for concern.

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Constituency profile

Essex woman keeps Billericay in touch with the old style

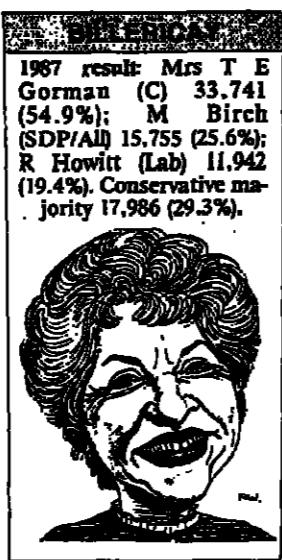
BY BILL FROST

DEEP in the Essex flatlands a Tory loose cannon yesterday launched a sustained and thunderous bombardment on the spin doctors and bratpack advisers at Conservative Central Office who have taken all the fire and verve from the party's campaign.

Teresa Gorman, the Conservative candidate for Billericay, does not believe in subtly coded messages. "I blame all those Sloanes at Central Office — all the Amandas, all the Timothys. What do they know about the real world," she thundered.

"It's all so boring — figures and statistics. The voters don't want that. We should be telling them more about how we will restore living standards and warning them about the nightmare in prospect if Labour wins."

Mrs Gorman, defending a majority of almost 18,000 at the last election, came up diplomatically when asked if she has serious reservations about John Major's gentle touch. "He does need to get



his personality across more forcefully. People like strong leadership. Quite clearly there has been a change of style that they will have to get used to. As a pre-Thatcherite, I keep Billericay in touch with the old style."

Billericay, said to boast one of the most right-wing electorates even in Essex, has neither forgiven nor forgotten those responsible for Mrs Thatcher's departure. "Michael Heseltine, although he might be a forthright speaker, is not liked here because of what he did to Margaret.

"Mrs Thatcher squalled all the poison out of this country:

brought interest rates down, reduced inflation and gave us a sense of confidence that made people feel good," Mrs Gorman said. Out on the stump in a fluorescent blue anorak, Mrs Gorman was greeted with the brand of deference normally bestowed on visiting royalty as she arrived at a pre-school play group threatened with closure before her intervention. "They think I am wonderful here," she explained.

The Gorman battle bus, a large Ford Transit decked out with balloons and election posters everywhere but the windscreen, was greeted with waves and smiles across the constituency. Essex jolts infuriate the Tory candidate as she surveys Billericay. "It's the Timothys and Amandas at Central Office again, the descendants of rubber barons who stripped the peasantry of their land. They think it is clever to laugh at these people at new money and hard work," she snapped.

Billericay's loose cannon does not deserve her ordinance for Central Office Sloanes alone. The Treasury, too, is in the firing line. Walking round an under-used business park, Mrs Gorman suggested that for every firm that collapsed a mandarin should be given the long white envelope. "We'll soon run out of top Treasury civil servants that way, but that would be no bad thing at all."

Mrs Gorman is not too

fond of the EC either. "Most people don't give a stuff about Europe. They wonder what we are doing cosying up to people who have made an art out of excluding our goods."

Brian Sparks, who runs a fax and car telephone leasing business in the constituency, is one of many traders who share Mrs Gorman's rumbling disquiet over Tory campaign strategy. "John Major needs to become a bit more of a bastard if we are to win. As for Lamont, he is too weak and the media regularly make mincemeat of him."

"Let's concentrate on nailing Labour's loony left, reminding people what the unions would get up to under Kinnock. At the moment the Tories are just a bunch of wet neilies. It would have been so different if Mrs Thatcher was still there," he said.

Frank Belard, the Liberal Democrat candidate, acknowledges that Mrs Gorman is a doughty fighter. He believes, however, that with an increased number of business failures in Billericay his party is poised to embarrass the Tories. "The response on the doorstep has been excellent. We are more than encouraged. We could win this time."

But if posters in windows are any measure of party support, both the Liberal Democrat and Labour's Alison Miller have much glass to cover before April 9. Mrs Gorman's face is everywhere from council flats to rambling Dallas-style bungalows with Jaguars and Mercedes crowding the driveways.

"There are more beautiful houses in Billericay than anywhere in the world I know outside Long Island, New York," Mrs Gorman said. "The Amandas and Timothys may sneer, but these are people who have worked hard and deserve continuing success under a Tory government that stands up for them."

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Mrs Gorman is not too

EC the big question, Biffen says

The future of Britain in the European Community is the biggest issue facing British politicians, John Biffen, a former cabinet minister, said yesterday. Voters should question the value of "continental-scale government".

Labour gain

An opinion poll in the marginal Birmingham constituency of Northfield shows a 14 per cent swing to Labour from the Tories since 1987. The survey, conducted by Quality Fieldwork for the Birmingham Evening Mail, gives Labour 55 per cent, Tories 33 per cent and Lib Dems 11 per cent. Quality Fieldwork interviewed 901 Northfield voters.

Peace offered

Lundy, in the Bristol Channel, is to become election-free. A four-day "election escape" break is being offered from next Wednesday with radios and television sets taken out of visitors' hotel rooms.

Fine Gael upset

The decision to lift the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein has angered Fine Gael in the Irish republic. Brendan McGahan, the party spokesman on border affairs, said the decision to allow Gerry Adams back on the airwaves was an insult to those killed by the IRA.

British vote

Tony English, an Irishman who lives in Scotland, intends to vote for Andrew Welsh, SNP candidate in Angus E.

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Pit stop: the Rev Ian Paisley, with his son, also called Ian, making a brief refuelling stop yesterday during a busy day's door-to-door electioneering in his constituency, Antrim North. In 1987, the Democratic Unionist Party leader had a majority of 23,234

Paisley roars his way to victory

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

YOU have to be fit to keep up with the Rev Ian Paisley. At just 65, he is in fighting form, relishing yet another election — his fifteenth of various kinds — and another he will surely win hands down like all the others but one.

Mr Paisley is an old pro when it comes to electioneering. He storms round his constituency, stomping his way up neat bungalow driveways, his voice booming a terrifying greeting as he approaches.

In rural north Antrim where he is defending a 23,000 majority, he does not waste much time discussing politics on the doorstep because as he points out, people here have made their minds up long ago on the key issues

Randalstown, dressed in a brown raincoat and a deer-stalker hat topped off with a brown ribbon. Underneath, he is wearing a dark suit and black shoes and, for some reason, white socks.

Running to keep up with him and soaked to the skin, I suggest this might not be the best weather for doorstepping. Not a bit of it, he chuckles. This is "liquid sunshine". He says he does any exercise he can, days like this at election time and his health tip for all those

aspiring leaders of Northern Ireland fundamentalists. Protectors is a glass of cider vinegar every morning, taken with a teaspoon of honey.

By now we have reached Emma Black's house. She virtually shields when she sees the "big man" trundling up to her front door. "You will be voting for me on the Thursday week," he booms. Oh yes.

Mr Black has a soft spot for Mr Paisley. Sixteen years ago he sorted out the planning permission for the house she now lives in and she has been grateful to him ever since. But now she has a new problem, the drainage in the drive.

"Fix you the water is the drive, or I won't be voting for you," she says in her clipped Antrim accent, laughing at her imperfection. "She is a great woman," Mr Paisley recalls later. "She used to bake bread. I'll get some grates to drain the drive, you'll see."

Then we stop for tea and cakes at the farmhouse home of the DUP's local organiser in the area. Mr Paisley is tickled pink with his campaign poster, a pile of which he has brought with him for distribution in the village.

They show him with clenched fist outstretched in a pose adopted by Edward Carson, the great Unionist leader of the early years of this century.

The shot was reconstructed last week especially for the election. Underneath are the words: "We will not have Dublin rule. For God and Ulster."

I suggest he looks a bit like Lenin at the barricades during the October Revolution. "Typical of a man from 'The Times,'" he replies. He recalls being invited to lunch at the newspaper in the early Seventies. It was a time, he said, when he still had all his teeth.

He remembers the journalists trying to tame him, to "clean him", but they failed. "I was very insincere that day," he said, "and just cracked jokes and laughed at them and — ha ha — they couldn't get my throat."

Soapbox returns in hi-tech campaign

The soapbox is back, but its role is more symbolic than practical, writes Philip Howard

IT IS an agreeable irony that the humble old soapbox is emerging as the most potent stage prop in an election meant to be dominated by soundbites, portable telephones, photo ops, and stage sets like flashy television chat shows. The prime minister climbed up on his soapbox again at Chester yesterday, to demonstrate his populism and virility, qualities the soapbox quacks felt he was not getting across by newer-fangled media.

Soapbox stands to platform as tub stands to pulpit. The former are radical and vulgar eminences; the latter are establishment. Since they organised themselves into civil society, humans have erected wooden platforms from which orators could stand out above the common herd, at the same time making them vulnerable to heckling and rotten fruit. The Romans used rostra, the beaked prows of ships they had taken from the Antantes in 338 BC, as pulpits for their orators in the forum at Rome. Rostrum is still an old-fashioned English name for a gent's soapbox.

The British devised three wooden erections for orators who wanted to talk a lot without much interruption. These are the soapbox or tub, the portable stage of itinerant actors, and the hangman's ladder. The soapbox that arrived in England in the 17th century was merely a small container with a lid found on washstands, and useless for any but Lilliputian oratory. The soapbox solid enough to stand on emerged about a century ago, almost certainly in the United States. The first recorded written citation is in Jack London's novel of 1907, *The Road*: "I get up on a soapbox to trot out the particular economic beat that buzz in my bonnet." Soap, being heavy, needs a solid wooden crate to hold the bars. The soapbox was a free podium or dais available to Joe Soap (no relation) in any corner drugstore. Thereafter soapbox oratory became a common term on both sides of the Atlantic.

Soapboxes can still be seen in action at Speakers' Corner and Tower Hill at lunchtime, though today's unofficial orators tend to have folding metal platforms with steps. In England tub, as a contemptuous term for a pupit for riff-raff nonconformists and hedge-preachers, goes back to the Civil War. It carries connotations of bombast and tub-thumping, but preachers as potent as John Bunyan and the Wesleys used to be.

In 1992, the soapbox has become a designer soapbox, and its use is symbolic more than practical. Its main purpose is as a demotic symbol amid the hubbub for screetches and photo-flashes on the television election news. Never underestimate the power of an old symbol.

Heseltine cuts a dashing figure

BY JOE JOSEPH

JUST in case John Maples was being too genteel about putting over the Conservatives' case in his marginal southeast London constituency, Michael Heseltine dropped by yesterday to make it clear to the voters of Lewisham West that business was business and unless they backed the boy Maples then he would have to get tough. No more Mr Nice Guy. He had brought David Mellor with him.

Mr Maples, an old-style Tory who is being shovelled in front of more and more cameras and microphones because colleagues see him as the human face of the Treasury, had spent the morning ambling down Cranston Road, a terrace of three-bedroom houses in Forest Hill. He shook hands with whoever was at home: mostly pensioners, who liked him, the unemployed, who didn't, and an unaddressed man who claimed to be doing some unspecified shift work.

Mr Maples smiles well, punctuating his easy pavement chit-chat with wild zig-zagging sprays across the street every time one of his

helpers finds somebody at home, hoping to reach the constituents before they shut their doors again.

Mr Maples has a majority of 3,772, and "a couple of thousand have dropped off the voters' register because of their refusal to pay the poll tax and that must work in our favour. They were probably Labour voters." So he is cautiously optimistic about holding his seat. But there are

more than 20,000 people who want John Major and low taxes. Hello, Jolly good.

While Mr Maples thinks gage-closing is next to godliness, to Michael Heseltine silence is next to socialism. He talks constantly and walks in photogenic angular poses, missing a beat only once, when a well-wisher handed

him a copy of *Hygiene Today*. Moving his entourage to Calford shopping centre, he continued his odd gait, smile and rail-a-car chatter, walking into Formica-covered sandwich bars as if that's what sort of thing he does most days.

"Hello, I'm Michael Heseltine — Vote For John Maples."

Mr Heseltine lingers just long enough to shake hands, smile, mention his and Maples' names and then walk on. Maybe 1½ seconds in all. The fastest endorser in politics. It leaves many voters bewildered and the chatty ones unsatisfied.

"Hello, I'm Michael Heseltine. I hope you'll be supporting John Maples, your Conservative candidate. Hello.

Very Good. Hello. Where do we go? Yes. Yes. Hello. This is a copy of Labour's tax plans.

I've no doubt that people want John Major and low taxes. Hello, Jolly good."

While Mr Maples thinks gage-closing is next to godliness, to Michael Heseltine silence is next to socialism. He talks constantly and walks in photogenic angular poses, missing a beat only once, when a well-wisher handed

him a copy of *Hygiene Today*.

He has a copy of *Hygiene Today*.

Teacher unions attack Clarke for 'outrageous slur' on profession



Straw: "Remark shows extraordinary blindness"

A suggestion by Kenneth Clarke that teachers opposed to the Conservatives were "voting for a quiet life" provoked an angry response from Labour and the big teacher unions yesterday.

The outburst by the education secretary came as he responded to an ICM poll which indicated that 51 per cent of the country's 450,000 teachers would vote Labour and that only 20 per cent would support the Tories.

Mr Clarke said: "I hope that the teachers voting against us are not all voting for a quiet life or to be allowed to keep on with practices which have not been successful or that they are fearful of being more exposed on the performance of their own schools to public scrutiny." The education secretary

The education secretary's insinuation that teachers who support Labour are voting for a quiet life has caused uproar, Nicholas Wood reports

also said that Tory-voting teachers were those with the greatest commitment to raising standards in the classroom.

"The teachers who are supporting us are those who want to get back to teaching the basics properly, who know that a sensible way of teaching does involve correcting the pupils' errors, imparting to them knowledge, testing their progress and acquiring skills."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said Mr Clarke's re-

marks were an astonishing insult to teachers and reminiscent of his gaffe as health secretary about "doctors feeling for their wallets" whenever confronted with change, which had enraged the medical profession. "It shows extraordinary blindness by Mr Clarke about the effect of his period in office in alienating what was traditionally a Conservative profession."

The Conservatives had been the most popular party among teach-

ers in 1974, 1979 and 1983, Mr Straw added. "It shows great impudence by him. A lot of Tory MPs who lose their seats next Thursday in marginal constituencies will be very angry with him."

Doug McAvoy, general secre-

tary of the National Union of Teachers, said that Mr Clarke's remarks were an outrageous slur on the teaching profession. "Yet again, we have ill-informed criticism from Mr Clarke of the teachers who have struggled against all the odds and his refusal to fund the schools properly."

"Teachers have never had a quiet life. Their criticism of the Conservative party is based on its inadequate funding for children, the fact that the government has

consistently refused to fund its own reforms to allow the schools to have the books and resources and teachers they need. Instead of that we have had teachers being made redundant and rising class sizes."

"Mr Clarke cannot suggest that only 20 per cent of teachers care about their children's education. It's difficult to find a teacher who doesn't care. His words like these that are making teachers turn against the Conservative party."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that Mr Clarke was talking unadulterated rubbish. "It tells us more about Mr Clarke than about teachers. If he goes on like this, he will lose the 20 per

Repairs will have to wait

By JOHN O'LEARY

LABOUR'S immediate spending plans for education would do no more than dent most of the problems the party is trying to address. Only outside lavatories and classes of more than 40 pupils would disappear within a year.

Some of the party's commitments would not be fulfilled in a full term of a new parliament. The guarantee of a nursery place for every three and four-year-old whose parents wanted it will not apply until the year 2000, for example, and there is no date offered for achieving the party's target of maximum class sizes of 30 pupils.

The extra £600 million Labour promises over the first 22 months of a new government would make little impression on an overall education budget of more than £30 billion. Although statistics include no estimates of future local authority spending on education, education department spending alone is already expected to rise by another £800 million in the next two years.

Some of the ten pledges for English education in yesterday's statement, *It's Time to Modernise our Schools*, claim only to make a start on particular areas of funding. Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, agreed yesterday that it would take years to clear the backlog of school repairs that is acknowledged by all parties.



School inspector: Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, on an afternoon visit to the Zakariya Muslim girls high school in Batley, after a walkabout in the West Yorkshire town yesterday. Batley and Spens is held by the Conservatives with a 1.362 majority

Labour schools pledges

£448m boost for books and buildings

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR unveiled a £448 million programme yesterday to modernise schools and provide more books, smaller classes and better buildings. Much of the money, which is for England alone, would be spent on repairing crumbling buildings and ensuring that pupils no longer had to use outside lavatories.

The money, part of the £600 million that Labour has pledged to spend on education over the next 22 months, would double spending on school books, fund a national reading programme and provide extra scientific equipment. Labour would also introduce regulations to outlaw classes of more than 40 children.

Launching the costed plans in Salford, Greater Manchester, yesterday, Neil Kinnock said that pupils were getting neither the stability nor the support they needed after 13 years of ceaseless experiments and continued under-investment. Britain was investing a lower proportion of national wealth in education than in 1979.

"Britain's schools are more and more dependent on funds raised by parents and more and more divided by schemes that favour a tiny minority and disadvantage the rest," the Labour leader said. "These realities of a two-tier schooling system mock the very idea of the classless society that the Conservatives say they want to create." It was time to get back to the basics — more qualified teachers, new books and better buildings, he said.

Jack Straw, shadow education secretary, who shared the platform, gave a detailed breakdown of how the £448 million would be spent. He was deliberately vague on how much of the remainder would go to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and how much would go into a contingency fund.

A Labour government would boost present capital spending on schools by more than a fifth, injecting £100 million into an emergency fund for immediate repairs, he said. The Audit Commission has estimated the maintenance backlog at £2 billion while local education authorities say the figure is nearer £4.5 billion.

Within the first 12 months, Labour would add £80 million, £10 per child, to the existing budget for books of £95 million. A further £20 million would go towards developing a national programme to help to raise reading standards and £60 million would go on extra scientific equipment. Labour would also set up a £10 million fund to help to pay for

thousands of "mentor" teachers to help guide new teachers in their probationary year.

Other measures in the £448 million package include a £58 million childcare scheme, a self-financing plan to scrap student loans and restore grants and a further £20 million to supplement the student vacation hardship scheme and to provide targeted housing assistance.

Labour is committed to providing nursery education for all three and four year olds within eight years. About £50 million would be provided in the first year to fund 20,000 places by transferring money earmarked for city technology colleges.

However an estimated 250,000 places would have to be provided by 2000 to fulfil Labour's pledge, which has yet to be fully costed.

Challenged over the Liberal Democrats' pledge to boost education spending by £2 billion, funded by an extra 1p on income tax, Mr Straw said that such proposals were made in fairyland by a party that would not form a government.

Leading article, page 15

Pupil-teacher ratio

Parents want smaller classes

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the parties swap plans for reform of school inspection and champion the latest scheme for slow readers, parents' prime concern remains the size of classes.

Two-thirds of parents interviewed for a Channel 4 poll rated a cut in class size as the most important change needed in primary schools. The proportion rose to 71 per cent among Tory voters.

Labour took up the theme

yesterday in its press conference on education, but none of the parties has been prepared to put a date on progress towards maximum classes of 30. Pressure groups led by the Campaign for State Education have been lobbying hard for such a limit.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, has promised to ban classes of 40 or more in his first year in office, reducing the maximum to 35.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has dismissed class size as a minor issue. He said that only 9,000 children were in classes of 40 and 80,000 in classes of more than 35.

Almost a quarter of children in English primary schools are in classes of more than 30. In Scotland, the size of infant classes is limited by law to 33. Denmark and The Netherlands have maximums of 27 pupils per class, and no European member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has as large an average class size as the United Kingdom.

The importance of small classes remains a matter of dispute among educationists, but the increasing popularity of independent schools for young pupils suggests that parents are convinced.

	% of 17-year-olds in education 1987-8	Public spending on education as % of GDP 1987
Australia	74.3	5.3
Austria	n/a	5.9
Belgium	92.7	5.1
Canada	75.7	6.5
Denmark	76.9	7.5
Finland	90.6	5.3
France	79.3	5.6
Germany	81.7	4.2
Iceland	95.7	7.7
Ireland	86.4	5.8
Japan	89.3	5.0
Luxembourg	83.4	4.1
Netherlands	79.2	7.0
New Zealand	45.2	5.4
Norway	72.2	5.8
Portugal	83.1	7.2
Switzerland	84.8	5.0
Turkey	34.1	1.8
United Kingdom	82.1	5.0
United States	89.0	4.8
Yugoslavia	88.3	3.6

Source: OECD

Defence strategy

Big parties unsure on forces costs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government threw defence into the election arena last night with a party political broadcast devoted totally to Conservative defence strategy for the Nineties.

Defence has not been a dominating political issue in the election campaign partly because of the belief that the policies of the main parties are now so close they do not merit the same dissection applied to the health service and tax policies. The Conservatives, however, are trying to point out the differences, raising the old accusation that defence is not safe in Labour's hands.

Labour has come a long way towards bridging the gap between the two main parties on the key areas of defence strategy. However, there remains one fundamental question that needs answering by both sides. Since there appears to be no prospect of an early peace

dividend arising from the ending of the Cold War, how will the next government fund its defence programme?

Tom King, the defence secretary, says that the proposed reorganisation of the armed forces under his *Options for Change* review, has been fully costed. The army is to be cut from 156,000 to 116,000 and the number of infantry battalions reduced from 55 to 38. He has promised smaller but better equipped forces. However, long-term costings are kept secret and procurement programmes may suffer delays, as they have in the past, when the Treasury conference wishes to be ignored.

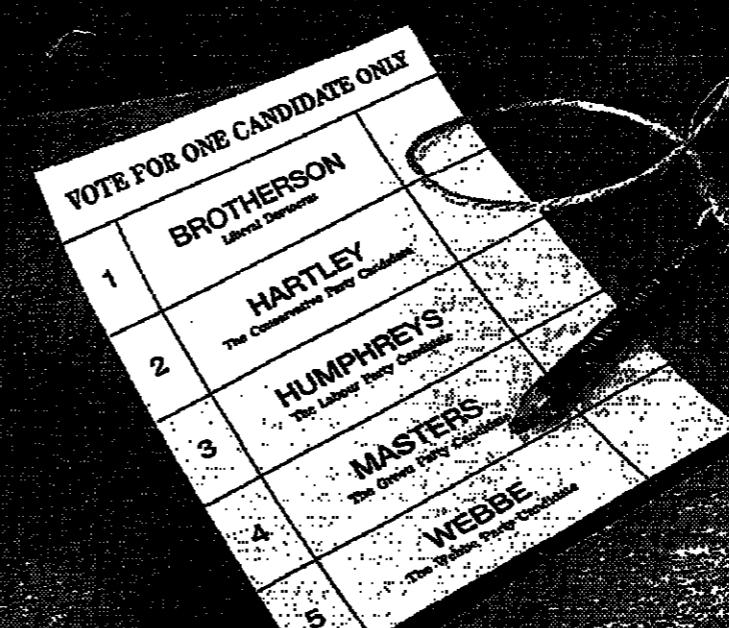
Martin O'Neill, Labour defence spokesman, has confirmed that a Labour government will hold a six-month review before announcing its plans for the armed forces. But last week he said he did not believe there would be fur-

ther cuts in the forces. With Labour's plans for big spending in other areas such as education and health, it may be asked where the extra cash will come from to keep the armed services properly manned and equipped?

The Conservatives accuse Labour of planning a 27 per cent cut in the defence budget, which they say would be catastrophic for the armed services and for the defence industry. That figure, however, is based on resolutions passed at Labour party conferences which called for the defence budget to be reduced to the average level of that of other European members of Nato. Neil Kinnock and Mr O'Neill have said that conference wishes would be ignored.

The truth is, that unless the country's economy picks up, the defence budget is likely to come under increasing strain whichever party wins the election.

soon people with a mental handicap will have their turn to discriminate



On the 9th of April people with a mental handicap will be exercising their right to vote.

Like everyone else, their cross will go next to the candidate who's going to do the most for them.

A candidate who'll fight tooth and nail for an anti-discrimination Act and the full implementation of the 1986 Disabled Persons Act.

An improvement of provisions for community care, education and employment will also win their vote.

In our Mencap manifesto, which we've sent to all candidates, we have spelt out the views of people with a mental handicap.

Candidates who don't give these views some thought, may find our just what it's like to be discriminated against.

mencap

Bonn defence chief quits over export of tanks to Turkey

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERHARD Stoltenberg, one of Germany's trusted cabinet members, decided to step down as defence minister yesterday after failing to follow orders to prevent the delivery of 15 tanks to Turkey. He is the third German defence minister to resign under a cloud since 1955, when the Bundeswehr was first allowed to rearm.

It is an indication of how difficult and sensitive the portfolio is in postwar Germany. His successor will be Volker Rühe, the forceful secretary-general of the ruling Christian Democrats, who represents a new generation of German politicians.

Pressure for Herr Stoltenberg's resignation has been building up since news leaked out last week that the tanks had been delivered in defiance of instructions from a Bundestag committee. The minister, with a solid reputation for integrity and efficiency, found himself publicly accused of either dishonesty or incompetence. His critics alleged that he had either deliberately ignored the Bundestag or did not know what



Rühe: hint of change in Kohl's solid cabinet was going on inside his own ministry.

His damaged reputation suffered even more on Monday when he refused to accept personal responsibility for what had happened and, instead, accepted the resignation of the senior civil servant in charge of the deal. He said yesterday that he had done nothing wrong but that after extensive consultations with friends and party colleagues he had come to the conclusion that he had to resign in the interests of the party. At a

press conference, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor and CDU leader, backed his one-time rival. The decision to go was a personal one, the chancellor said, and the party would certainly have supported Herr Stoltenberg if he had decided to stay.

However, after reading the widespread press condemnation of Herr Stoltenberg's behaviour yesterday, the chancellor must have been relieved to see him go. His reluctant departure may have been in the party's long-term interests but the affair cannot have helped the CDU's already slim chances in Sunday's state election in Schleswig-Holstein, where he served as prime minister for over a decade.

The promotion of Herr Rühe to such a senior post may be indicative of a change of style in Herr Kohl's solid cabinet. The new defence minister, aged 49, has a tougher, right-wing approach than older members of the coalition cabinet. He has made no secret of the fact that he wants to inherit the foreign ministry from Hans-Dietrich Genscher later this month and he is not shy of trampling on a few toes to get what he wants.

His combative style is very different from that of Herr Stoltenberg, aged 63, who has shown an almost aristocratic politeness throughout his long political career. His departure, after 25 years as federal cabinet minister or state minister, marks the end of an era.

He was only 31 in 1965 when he was brought into the cabinet as minister for science and research. Herr Kohl at that time was no more than the local party chairman in the Rhineland Palatinate.

When Herr Kohl outmanoeuvred him to become chancellor he was entrusted with the all-important finance ministry where he was initially highly successful. He masterminded a complicated tax reform package, reduced government borrowing to a record low and, for a while, drove inflation down to a negative growth rate. He was well in front of Herr Kohl in opinion polls. However, the tax reforms proved difficult to implement, government borrowing and inflation rose and his popularity waned. He was demoted in 1989 to the unpopular defence ministry.

No formal charges have been laid against any of them but apart from Herr Honecker, all are in prison while enquiries continue. Herr Honecker, who has been granted asylum in the Chilean ambassador's residence in Moscow since last December, has said he will consider returning to Germany to stand trial only if and when charges against him are properly drawn up.

The federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe has opened an investigation into allegations that a former West German minister, currently sitting in the Bundestag, was a Stasi agent and is now working for the successor to the KGB.

Police raid former communists' homes

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN a co-ordinated dawn raid, 500 police swooped on the homes and offices of former East German leaders in and around Berlin yesterday. They were hunting for evidence of the old communist regime's shoot-to-kill orders which led to the deaths of 200 East Germans trying to escape to the West.

The state prosecutor's office is under pressure to draw up formal charges of manslaughter against Erich Honecker, the former East German leader. He fled to Moscow more than a year ago to escape a warrant under which he could be held for questioning. Since then, despite intensive investigations, it has not been possible to link him or any of his aides with the shoot-to-kill order.

In all, 38 properties belonging to 27 people were searched yesterday in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. They included those of Egon Krenz, who succeeded Herr Honecker briefly as East Germany's leader, and Günter Mittag, a former senior politburo member. About 200 officers searched the archives of the Communist party headquarters. The party, which was reformed after unification,

complained in an open letter yesterday that the government was trying to criminalise its members.

Among those under suspicion of being involved with the order, are Erich Mielke, the former head of state security, who is on trial for the murder of two policemen more than 50 years ago. Other suspects include Willi Stoph, the long-serving East German prime minister, Harry Tisch, the East German trade union leader, and Heinz Kessler, the former defence minister.

No formal charges have been laid against any of them but apart from Herr Honecker, all are in prison while enquiries continue. Herr Honecker, who has been granted asylum in the Chilean ambassador's residence in Moscow since last December, has said he will consider returning to Germany to stand trial only if and when charges against him are properly drawn up.

The federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe has opened an investigation into allegations that a former West German minister, currently sitting in the Bundestag, was a Stasi agent and is now working for the successor to the KGB.

Chefs take their hero home

LYONS chefs claimed responsibility yesterday for the theft of a wax figure of the famous chef, Paul Bocuse, from a Paris waxworks museum, saying the Lyonnaise master should remain in Lyons.

P.J. Patterson, aged 56, has been sworn in as Jamaica's sixth prime minister. "Jamaicans from all walks of life wish to see the progress in measurable terms," he said.

Maestro Alberto Zedda, aged 63, a former director of New York City Opera, was named artistic director of Milan's La Scala, Italy's most prestigious opera house.

The British research scientist Thomas Brooke Benjamin, aged 62, and the American computer scientist Donald Knuth, aged 54, have been named as foreign associates to the French Academy of Science.

Tammy Wynette, the country music star, was discharged from the Royal Perth Hospital three days after collapsing for the second time on her Australian tour.

The former heavyweight boxing champion, Mike Tyson, faces disciplinary action for giving autographs to fellow inmates, prison officials in Indianapolis said.

Stricken mother goes back to win votes in Italian poll

Christian Democrats get a much needed boost from a heroine who is standing on an anti-kidnap ticket. John Phillips writes from Lamezia



Signora Casella became a national heroine, known as "Mother Courage", when she spent 16 days touring the villages of the Aspromonte mountain on the toe of Italy demanding the release of her son, Cesare.

For ten days she lived in a tent in the remote village of Platì; she chained herself to railings and local women staged demonstrations of support. The ordeal ended on January 30, 1990 when the kidnappers fled from Carabinieri troops and Cesare escaped after 743 days of captivity.

Signora Casella said she sees her candidacy as a Christian Democrat for the senate in the constituency of Lamezia Terme as a way of repaying ordinary Calabrians for their solidarity during the drama.

"The people here gave me so much affection," she said as she prepared for another foray into mountain villages under heavy police escort. "They were so close to me when my son was kidnapped. They comforted me. Calabria entered into my heart."

Yesterday Cesare, now 22, interrupted his university studies at the family home in the northern city of Pavia to join his mother on the hustings during the final stages of the campaign before the polls open on Sunday.



Crash-landing: half of a DC9 aircraft which split in two on landing on Monday, sitting on the runway at Granada airport yesterday. Seven people were injured in the impact when a tyre of the Spanish Aviaco airliner burst on touchdown

Israeli president leads synagogue meeting in Spain

King embraces Jews' return

FIVE hundred years after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, King Juan Carlos of Spain, yesterday held a *reencuentro* (new meeting) with the Jewish people, represented by Chaim Herzog, the president of Israel, in the Madrid synagogue.

The king is descended from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, who decided in 1492 "after much deliberation" to "order all Jews out of our kingdom, never to return".

For the present king, as for many modern Spaniards, this was highly regrettable, and he has agreed to visit Israel to make amends.

But the king avoided a direct apology for his ancestors' move, taken during the Spanish inquisition, which gave the Jews in Spain a blunt choice: exile, or baptism. Israel wants formal repentance by Spain, and a repeat of the 1492 edict at a ceremony in Jerusalem on its anniversary. But Spain, *hasta poco facto*, repealed the edict in 1812, permitted any religion under the 1798 constitution and established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1986, chose instead to organise yesterday's symbolic meeting.

The word Sephardi comes from "Sephard", the Hebrew for Spanish Sephardi dignitaries, whose people now number nearly 3 million worldwide, descended from the 165,000 who fled, also took part in the ceremony on the second day of President Herzog's first state visit to Spain.

"I will not ask apologies for

what happened 500 years ago, because no one in Spain today is responsible for that tragedy," he said on arrival, its bishop and then a papal legate and the new archbishop of Granada was also a former Jew. Several conversos (Jews who became Christians).

Spain is organising Sephardi 92, an important cultural and architectural programme to rediscover the history of the Jews in Spain, as part of the fifth centennial celebrations of Christopher Columbus's voyage. The exploration was part financed by Jews and conversos (Jews who became Christians).

"All Jews in my realms are mine and under my care and protection and it belongs to me to defend and aid them and keep justice," Isabella said in 1492. Both she and Ferdinand had Jewish physicians. But their Catholic subjects resented the apparent ease with which Jews obtained success and wealth.

On March 31, 1492 the rulers issued their edict in Granada as a religious act, to give thanks for the capture of the city from the Moors.

"The Lord has put this thing into the heart of the king," said Isabella. Appeals to her to rescind the Jewish expulsions were successfully deflected by the infamous Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor.

Isabella: forced all the Jews to leave Spain

who stayed became just as successful as *conversos*; the rabbi of Burgos became first its bishop and then a papal legate and the new archbishop of Granada was also a former Jew. Several conversos

also became Spain's most revered saints including Teresa of Avila. On the other hand many of those accused of converting "falsely" suffered persecution through *auto de fe*.

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Isabella: forced all the Jews to leave Spain

Ukraine church seeks to separate

Moscow: The Russian Orthodox church opened a five-day synod here yesterday to examine a request by the church's Ukrainian wing to become autonomous from the Moscow patriarchate.

Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev several months ago sent a letter to Aleksei II, the Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russias, asking that the Ukrainian church no longer be dependent on the hierarchy in Moscow.

Sources said the separation was purely a technical request to become self-governing and in principle did not involve any problems. The closed-door meeting is also to decide on several canonisations, and will discuss relations between the Orthodox Church and society. (AFP)

France fined

Strasbourg: The European Human Rights Court fined France £15,490 for being slow in examining a request for indemnity by a man who caught AIDS from a blood transfusion. The man died in February but his parents pursued the case. (AFP)

Tense relations

Berne: Strained relations between Switzerland and Iran have worsened after Switzerland, claiming a reciprocal act, ordered Iranian diplomats to stay within 25 miles of Berne. They also asked for news of a Swiss diplomat held in Tehran. (AFP)

Off the rails

Paris: Striking transport workers brought the new train to Euro-Disneyland to a halt, forcing Paul Quiles, the transport minister, to go to the inauguration ceremony by car. Workers are complaining about conditions and demand more pay. (AP)

Nuclear risk

Sofia: Outdated Soviet-built reactors at Bulgaria's Kozloduy nuclear plant pose an unacceptable safety risk. Jukka Laaksonen, chairman of an International Atomic Energy Agency committee studying safety of Soviet-built reactors, said. (Reuters)

Fighting back

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia is to set up a task force to counter Western accusations that it has failed to control logging. Officials have complained that environmentalists have disrupted the unloading of timber in European ports. (Reuters)

Iraqis rewarded

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein has halved the jail terms of prisoners who jeered at United Nations inspectors searching their jail on suspicion that it was part of Iraq's nuclear programme, the official daily *al-Quds al-Arabi* said. (Reuters)

Bridge attacked

Nairobi: Oromo Liberation Front rebels who demand the presence of United Nations observers at Ethiopian elections, have blown up a bridge linking Addis Ababa and an eastern town, increasing tension between rebels and the government.

Yeltsin hails red letter day as Russian treaty is signed

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ALL BUT two of the republics and regions which make up the Russian Federation committed themselves yesterday to preserving the unity of their state by signing the Russian Federation Treaty. Frustrated by more than a year's negotiations, the treaty is seen by Russian leaders as vital to staving off centrifugal tendencies within Russia similar to those which led to the break-up of the Soviet Union.

As final preparations for the signing ceremony were in hand, there was further good news for the Russian leadership with reports from one of the two dissenting republics, the north Caucasus region of Checheno-Ingushetia, that the rebel regime of General Dzhokhar Dudayev might be to those which led to the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Many of the local officials appeared almost bursting with pride, allowing themselves a slight smile as they were handed the official pen and the red-bound volume was laid before them. When

the signing was completed by the president himself there was a light burst of applause, before the first chords of the Russian national anthem brought everyone to their feet.

Of the 88 territorial units which make up the Russian Federation, only Tatarstan, the republic to the east of Moscow which voted ten days ago for independent status in international law, and the rebel Checheno-Ingushetia were absent. Bashkiria, now called Bashkortostan, whose parliament had rejected the treaty, agreed to sign subject to amendments being approved by its parliament.

President Yeltsin, visibly satisfied to have achieved a treaty of the kind that had eluded Mikhail Gorbachev, presided over an hour-long ceremony in the Kremlin's splendid St George's Hall. More than 100 local leaders were seated around a long table, beneath sparkling crystal chandeliers, to place their signatures on the treaty.

The representatives sat in strict order, first the republics, then the larger regions (*krais*), then the smaller regions (*oblasts*) and finally the autonomous regions, each group in alphabetical order. As the two copies of the treaty were brought around, the names of each region were announced, followed by the names of those who would sign it. The cities of Moscow and St Petersburg, which

also signed in their own right.

Mr Yeltsin said it was "a red letter day in the history of our state". He said: "The base of Russian statehood will be the freedom of the republics and regions, their rights and powers, their responsibility before their citizens, Russia and the whole world... We have enough strength to enable us to avert the threat of Russia's disintegration."

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Conor Cruise O'Brien

A constitutional change could get Ireland out of a tight spot on abortion

Many people suppose that last week's decisions of the Dublin government securely established the right of women to travel and to obtain information relating to abortion. This impression is largely created by the screams of the anti-abortion lobby. Dr Mary Lucey, of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) claimed last week that as a result of the proposed addendum to Ireland's protocol to the Maastricht Agreement, Ireland will have "the most liberal abortion law in Europe". It will have nothing of the kind. Ireland now has the most ambiguous, confused and dangerous abortion law in Europe, and will have even if the addendum is carried.

Under Irish law the Maastricht Agreement has to be submitted to the people by referendum. The government fears that the anti-abortion lobby, backed by the Catholic church, may mobilise against it the forces that carried the Eighth Amendment (right to life of the unborn) in 1983. The protocol was designed to reassure that lobby. It declares "Nothing in the Treaty on European Union... shall affect the application in Ireland of Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution of Ireland". This seems to have satisfied the lobby at the time.

But now there is a new danger: that the protocol will not be acceptable to other members of the Community. This danger stems from the international infamy which followed the publicity given to the case of the 14-year-old rape victim prevented by a High Court order from leaving Ireland to obtain an abortion. In order to make the protocol acceptable to other members of the Community, the government thought up last week's addendum: "This Protocol shall not limit freedom to travel between Member States or to obtain, in Ireland, information relating to services lawfully available in Member States".

This negative language refers only to the protocol itself. The protocol shall not limit freedom of travel or freedom of information, but the constitution, as interpreted by the Irish Supreme Court, does limit both freedoms. Through successive Supreme Court decisions, it became a penal offence to circulate information about abortion. Under Community law it is now possible to promote such information, but in private counselling it remains illegal. As for freedom of travel, three out of five judges of the Supreme Court held that it could be restricted in certain circumstances. True, the injunction in the case of the 14-year-old was struck down, but other injunctions remain possible.

The government is in a tight spot. If it gives ground to the Community, it is in trouble with the church, and vice versa. The church has not denounced the addendum, nor has it called for a new referendum. But the anti-abortion lobbyists are loudly doing both. Past experience suggests that the church will take up their demands in due course. The lobbyists demand a referendum on abortion before there is one on Maastricht. If the bishops back that demand, the government will probably concede.

However, Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, still has some cards to play. The 1983 referendum could not have been carried by so large a majority had it not been supported by Fianna Fail. The lobbyists are almost certainly a bit weaker now than they were in 1983, partly because of the revulsion among the Irish people over the recent case. Mr Reynolds does not have to let the lobbyists dictate the wording of the referendum as they did in 1983. The lobbyists (and the bishops) want the constitution amended because it has been found to legalise abortion in certain circumstances. To get that changed, they will swallow things that they would not swallow otherwise. I believe that if the following proposition replaced Article 40.3.3, it would carry by a large majority in a referendum:

"Parliament shall not legislate to permit abortion in the Republic. This Article shall not limit freedom (here insert the wording of the Maastricht Addendum, thereby making it part of the constitution)."

That I believe would satisfy the current state of public opinion in Ireland and get Mr Reynolds out of his tight corner. More important, it would eliminate from the constitution the explosive absolutism of "the right to life of the unborn", and give freedom of movement and information the force of law.

Mass tourism follows close behind programmes like *The Camomile Lawn*, says Bernard Richards

Landscapes of the mind



As seen on television: Broom Park in Cornwall

events. It was not long after *Wuthering Heights* was published that tourists started flattening the heather in the pursuit of the scenes of Cathy and Heathcliff's intense courtship. Within his lifetime readers were pestering Thomas Hardy to reveal the whereabouts of Little Hindpool, and the author himself gave some support to Hermann Lee's compilation *Hardy's Wessex*. The more intelligent tourists always realised that you couldn't visit the scenes of a novel, because transformations to a greater or lesser degree had taken place. So, in *Balzac's Tours*, Henry James "spent a whole morning in wondering rather stupidly" which house had figured in *Le Curé de Tours*. He discovered that nothing fulfilled "all the conditions mentioned in Balzac's description". Such scepticism is rare in literary tourism. Our tourist industry nurtures the hope that the country of the mind can be visited on the ground.

Television versions of novels extend the desire to visit the original sites. This desire is terribly strong, and the hearts of travel agents and the hard-up owners of stately homes must leap when they behold yet another bit of territory or their own castle annexed for the empire of the imagination. The straightforward TV holiday pro-

grammes are a disaster. I regard them as a kind of prophylactic against travel; they enable you to write off the desire ever to go to the places they present, whether Iceland or Venice, because they infect the whole enterprise with a kind of cheery banality, and in the corners of the screen one can see actual holidaymakers crassly

and inertly wasting their time. Even places one might have wished to visit can be consigned to oblivion once contaminated by the jaunty signature tunes of some of the programmes.

But *The Camomile Lawn* is different. Here, and more so in better examples, there is drama, narrative, a landscape soaked not with the grindingly diurnal personal of a Cliff Michelmore but with psychic intensity, a plot that takes you on a vivid

journey. Advertisers must often be in despair that fictions can achieve, incidentally and far more effectively, results to which they devote their undivided efforts. Ordinary holidays are often so plotless that one craves the association of a meaningful sequence. And if the thing is set in the past, it will encourage a bout of nostalgia. *The Camomile Lawn* comes complete with a Morris 12 with running boards, just like the one my father once sprayed turquoise

with the help of the household vacuum cleaner, and whose leather seats I polished with a lump of beeswax.

Television has intensified literary tourism, because unimaginative readers who in the past used to skip the descriptive bits now see them literally there. Novel readers mentally build their own places, but television settings can be visited. The novels may be located in a sort of no-man's land, but with the screen version one can at least say "this is where the filming of the Terror Run took place", and receive a mild frisson.

Inevitably, though, the literary and television pilgrimages are a colossal disappointment: one realises, standing on the site of some dramatic or melodramatic encounter, that one's life is drained, empty, unemotional, banal — for the moment at least. The whole enterprise is doomed. Prufrockian man and his next-door neighbour go to Elsinore for their holidays hoping for purposeful excitement, only to discover that they are not Prince Hamlet, nor are meant to be.

The author is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

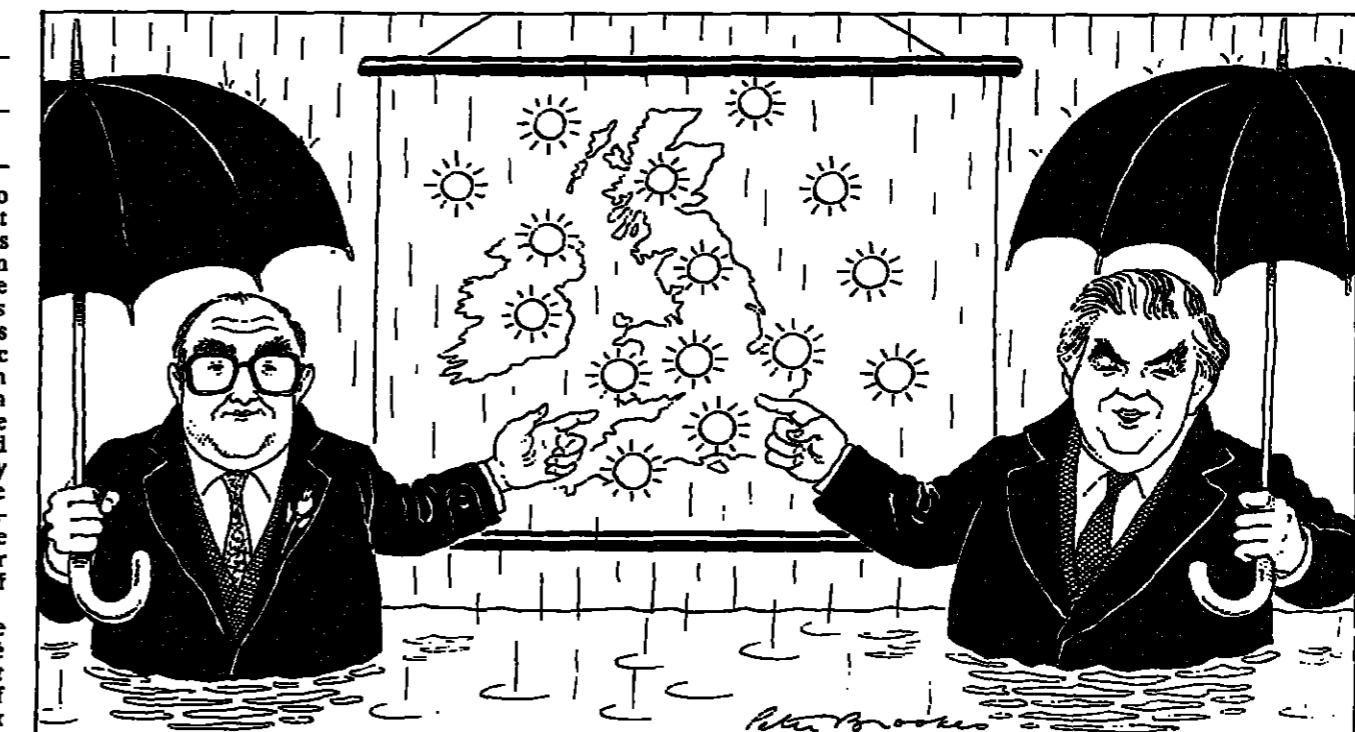
Britain's slough of despond

Economic prospects are much rosier than the voters realise, argues Anatole Kaletsky

If there were an Olympic event for running down one's own country, Britain would win every time. There was only ever one issue that could win the Conservatives the election: the justifiable fear that Labour's tax policies would prolong the recession and stunt future economic growth. As this morning's poll in *The Times* demonstrates, the Tories have so far completely failed to persuade the electorate that their policies would be any more successful than Labour's in pulling the economy out of recession. But the Tories' inability to capitalise on what used to be an overwhelming advantage in ratings for economic competence was not due solely to the unexpected persistence of the recession, or to Norman Lamont's damp squib of a Budget, or the Conservatives' inability to explain to the voters how Labour's squeeze on the rich would cost working-class jobs.

The government seemed to face a more fundamental problem. So black is the despair gripping Britain after two years of slump and two generations of apparent economic failure, that many believe that the economy is even sicker than it was in the 1970s, before the structural reforms of the Thatcher era. As a result nobody — Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat — is capable of pulling the country out of the economic morass.

This is the only reasonable conclusion to draw from the debate on the tax and public spending "crisis" allegedly facing the nation. Instead of analysing the costs and benefits of ERM membership, examining the Tory economic record or trying to anticipate the consequences of a Labour government, the media have settled for a bizarre set of ground rules for all economic discussion.



Any politician who wants to be taken seriously must accept the following axioms before he is given a serious hearing: Britain will never fully recover from the present recession: the country is condemned to perpetual mass unemployment, and economic performance will be much worse in the next five years than in any comparable period since the war. "As reasonable and honest people, we can surely take all that for granted," say the pundits. "Now, Norman Lamont and John Smith, please tell us how you will fulfil all your election pledges, in the midst of this economic mess."

That is essentially the message from the much-disseminated exposé in yesterday's *Independent* about "the hole at the heart of Conservative and Labour tax and spending plans". The *Independent*'s report was quickly repudiated by all three political parties, but so deep is Britain's despair after its long economic failure, that the report's defeatist assumptions may all too easily infect the last week of election campaigning and — far more dangerously — the decisions of the next government.

The report's most publicised conclusion was that any new government would have to raise taxes sharply to keep public borrowing within the limits of the Maastricht Treaty on monetary union. However, the analysis, by accountants Coopers & Lybrand, showed no such thing. It actually confirmed the figures produced by Norman Lamont in the Budget, suggesting that by the end of the next parliament, a Tory government would have a borrowing requirement far below the Maastricht ceiling, a lower ratio of public debt to national income than any other major European country, and generally the strongest fiscal position in Europe.

almost exactly the rate achieved in the four years that followed the last recession, which is why the Treasury chose this assumption. It is substantially below the 3.9 per cent growth rate of the four years after the 1974 recession, and far less than the average in cyclical upswings of the previous 20 years.

To meet the Treasury's growth forecasts, the new government would not have to replicate the inflationary conditions of the Lawson boom, as many commentators seem to think. The Lawson boom, when Britain's growth rate shot up to well over 4 per cent, did not begin until six years after the end of the last recession. In fact, a 3.5 per cent growth rate would be barely sufficient to dent unemployment by the middle of the decade. If the pattern of the 1980s were to be repeated, unemployment would merely stabilise or even continue to rise between 1993 and 1996. With

an economic performance substantially less than the Treasury is assuming, unemployment would continue to rocket, and the gulf between benefit payments and tax receipts would widen as never before.

Precisely such an economic disaster, with growth averaging only 2.5 per cent a year, is what Coopers & Lybrand dub its "central scenario". Such a weak performance, during what is normally the strong recovery phase of an economic cycle, would be unprecedented in Britain's post-war history. Naturally, it would lead to huge public deficits. But to respond to such deficits by raising taxes or cutting public spending — as most commentators are urging — would be to repeat the economic insanities of the 1930s. When Sir Geoffrey Howe raised taxes to narrow the deficit in the midst of 1981 recession, he simultaneously slashed interest rates and devalued sterling, an option all parties have denied themselves in the years ahead.

The Coopers analysis reveals no fatal flaw in the tax and spending plans of either the Conservative or the Labour party. It demonstrates merely that the financial solvency of any government, like that of any company, depends on its ability to maintain reasonable growth. If Britain cannot achieve growth rates in the 1990s at least equal to those in the early 1980s, there will indeed be a fiscal crisis. There will also be an unemployment crisis, a financial crisis, a housing crisis and a political crisis. By comparison, the swelling of the public deficit will seem like a weak joke.

The economic question politicians should now be required to answer is who will end the recession sooner and deliver faster economic growth. If the Tories cannot persuade the voters that they are the party of recovery after the obvious threats to prosperity posed by John Smith's shadow budget, they will not win the election — and they will not deserve to win.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Though I acknowledge the risk that it may make you bury your face in your piny and shriek uncontrollably until help arrives, let me call today's wittering a manifesto. I swear I should not do so were there a more appropriate word, but since manifesto derives from *manus* (hand) and *festus* (struck), there is not. Take my word for it. A hand has struck, and something must be done about it if civilisation is not to sink irrecoverably into an abyss so beyond our capacity to imagine that even Dante wouldn't know where to start.

On Monday night, we returned from a weekend away with no more than a householder's normal trepidation, ie check all chimneys for sudden absence, turn key in front door, listen for reassuring bleep of undisturbed alarm but keep ear cocked for alien footfall, drip, or crackle, flare nostril for gas, then proceed up stairs and... and stop halfway.

Something was wrong. But its wrongness was not susceptible to the available organs, it was one of those wrongnesses that well up from vague awareness; an unease I did not know what it was until I came downstairs again and went to collect the suitcase I had left on the step while I opened the door. The suitcase should have been beside something which should have been beside the step. A hydrangea. It had been there for twenty years. It was not there any more. What was there was a large hole. There was just

enough light from the hall to see, at the bottom of the hole, a few pitiful white squiggles, snapped off where they still clung to the earth in testament to the fight without which a plucky hydrangea will not give up. A stranger would call them roots. I would call them toes.

For some shrubs you get close to. Some shrubs are family. When we moved into the house in 1972, people came with pots: two were hydrangeas, and after the people had gone away again, we planted the infant shrublets either side of the front door, thereafter they were cherished, mulched, and bought regular large ones of sulphate to keep them blue. They grew, they threw, and they complemented one another bloom for bloom.

Now one of them has nothing to complement. I looked at the house this morning, and it was as if it had one ear. Some bastard stole up in the night and stole away again, and what he has stolen is more than a shrub, he has stolen twenty years.

And he has done even more than that, he has left me at several losses. What kind of bastard can this be? He is clearly not a horticultural bastard, because the plant had already begun to leaf up; it is too late to transplant it, and the bastard will have to shift it quickly if his motive was profit, because if he does not shift it quickly he will be going door to door with a corpse. As you might guess, I have mixed feelings on

this: while for the plant's sake I want it to live, for the bastard's sake I want it to die.

But this is only the tip of the perch. He has wrought, perhaps he was not a professional bastard at all but a neighbourhood amateur, bent on improving his tract at the expense of mine. So, if am I to trudge Cricklewood's verdant lanes, looking for something beloved and wilting so that I can take the bastard by the throat? But, if further so, how will I know if the hydrangea is mine and not a mere victim of some brown-fingered nerd? You cannot take people by the throat on such slim evidence, they will croak for the Old Bill even as you throttle.

Then there is the question of what to put in the hole.

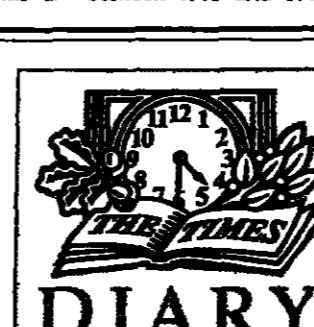
Hopkins bottled up

AS stars of the film and theatre world saluted Anthony Hopkins for his Oscar, an altogether quieter celebration was under way at the Quaker meeting house in London's St Martin's Lane.

"He was here all the time last year and we grew very fond of him," says Diana Galvin, warden of the centre. Hopkins hired a small dimly-lit room at the meeting house to rehearse one of his least known theatrical projects. It was here that he directed an acclaimed but obscure fringe show about Dylan Thomas.

For several weeks Hopkins worked without pay, directing Bob Kingdom in the one-man show, *Dylan Thomas: Return Journey*, which has just completed a run in New York and returns to Britain shortly. Hopkins conducted rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays and chose the venue, at least in part, because at the time he was also attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in the same building. "He used to go straight from rehearsals into the other meeting," says Mrs Galvin. Hopkins also used to pop upstairs to eat her egg mayonnaise sandwiches between rehearsals.

Mrs Galvin initially let the centre to Kingdom, who she had seen performing the show in Dublin. "When someone rang the bell and said 'It's Anthony Hopkins for Dylan Thomas', I thought he was joking," Mrs Galvin, set her alarm at 5 am yesterday to see whether he had won the Oscar. "Of course I celebrated, but I haven't seen the film. Nor do I want to. It's not the sort of thing I would take a coach party of Quakers to see. We prefer to think of Tony as he is. Hannibal Lecter would not fit in very well here at all."



• Celebrations were muted yesterday at Orion Pictures, which made *Silence of the Lambs*. Management has filed for voluntary bankruptcy, and despite Kevin Costner's smash hit with *Dances with Wolves*, the 200 remaining staff are to lose their jobs. Despite that, the workforce was still delighted that the film swept the board. "We are going down, but at least we are going down with a bang," says Teresa Mutter from the studio in Los Angeles. "We would have a champagne party to celebrate. But we can't afford the champagne — and we are still waiting for our thank-you card from Anthony Hopkins."

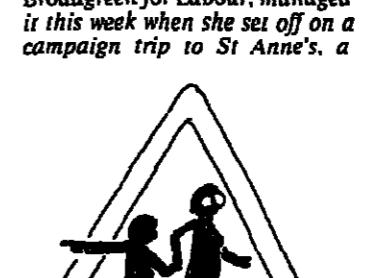
City snickers

THE beleaguered Lord Hollick, Neil Kinnock's business cheerleader, now faces dissent in the boardroom. Hollick, the high-profile managing director of MAI, who instigated the letter to *The Times* last month from businessmen supporting Labour's economic policies, has fallen out with his chairman Sir Ian Morrow, who yesterday penned his own letter to *The Times* pourng scorn on Kinnock's threat to introduce credit controls. In fact, unnoticed, Morrow's name had also appeared as a signature to the letter from

businessmen supporting Liberal Democrat policy, only days after Hollick's Labour letter.

"I am afraid we cannot agree. We are both fixed in our views," said Morrow yesterday. "We manage to contain our differences at board meetings. Some of our directors are Tory as well." Which begins to explain why Neil Kinnock remains disappointed that his favourite tame businessman has not been able to reinforce his support with a cash donation from his company.

• Many candidates lose their seats on polling day; few manage to hold on through the campaign. Jane Kennedy, fighting Liverpool Broadgreen for Labour, managed it this week when she set off on a campaign trip to St Anne's, a



local primary school. She arrived without mishap — but at another school bearing the same name in the neighbouring constituency of Liverpool Mossley Hill. Rosemary Cooper, the local Liberal Democrat candidate, yesterday helpfully put a constituency map in the post to her rival.

Courageous couple

THE DORCHESTER, where Sunnie and Jackie Mann last night hosted an unashamedly sentimental party, has become almost a second home to the couple. They first met at the hotel in 1941, and rekindled their memories on the same spot at the launch of their book, *Yours till the End*. The title is taken from the Vera Lynn song they first danced to at the hotel during a party for the Guinea Pig Club of badly burned fighter pilots more than 50 years ago.

Not all of their memories of the hotel are so sweet. During one of the Guinea Pig Club dinners, the pair recalled Sunnie unleashing her famously ferocious temper on a female guest who objected to the appearance of the scarred and disfigured pilots. She recalled storming up to the woman and telling her: "You are only eating at the Dorchester because of those boys. They've saved your fat derriere. They've risked their lives for you and this is what they have to show for it." She then poured her gin and tonic over the woman's head.

Who?

THE Duchess of York will make her first foray back into the limelight next week, when she will launch a keep-fit video by her personal fitness trainer, Josh Salzmann. When asked to confirm details, Buckingham Palace was disdainful about the duchess's first public engagement since news of her separation from Prince Andrew. Despite the apology to her ten days ago, she has clearly been declared a non-person by the palace. A spokeswoman said: "We do not have any information. The duchess is not carrying out any official engagements. We would not know about any private events."

Gadaffi sees foreign workers as trump card in dispute



Gadaffi: left with few friends willing to help

MUAMMAR Gadaffi's Libya is uniquely vulnerable to sanctions imposed by the United Nations, but Tripoli could have a trump card in its colony of resident foreigners, who are potential hostages.

As usual, the ordinary people of Libya will probably suffer the most from cutting off air services. There could well be a shortage of essential supplies, although officials of the Gadaffi regime will presumably ensure that they themselves do not go without.

The effect of the sanctions is expected to be limited at first. The UN is reserving the right to build up the pressure with stronger measures if those held responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland and the destruction of French diplomats in Bagh-

As UN pressure grows on Tripoli to surrender suspected terrorists, its leader may take foreign workers as hostages, David Waits writes

the UTA DC10 over Niger are not handed over. "We hope they will respond as soon as possible. That's why we are going slowly but surely," a Foreign Office spokesman said in London.

Though the intent is to cut off air links, reduce diplomatic contacts and embargo the sale of arms, in the first instance, there is the example of sanctions against Iraq during the Gulf war to serve as a warning of what can happen if UN demands are not met. French diplomats in Bagh-

dad were surprised last year to be fed caviare when they attended a beauty contest but it appears to have been the exception that proved the rule because the air and sea blockade is thought to have been quite effective in other respects.

The Libyan leader can no longer depend on the eastern bloc to help him with spare parts for his oil industry, or even refined products. The UN measures will undoubtedly damage what is essentially a desert state unable to feed itself. Though Libya is a key supplier of oil to many states the world supply is now robust. Colonel Gadaffi cannot look to other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for help. His recent confrontation with the Arab League has not endeared him to other members. Even his neighbour Egypt, which is sometimes disposed to help him out for the sake of peace and quiet on their mutual border, is not likely to come to his aid to any significant degree.

Colonel Gadaffi's trump card — one which has served him well before — is the sizeable number of British and other European technical experts who help to keep the oil industry and the country's infrastructure functioning.

There were reports last night that exit visas for foreigners were being refused.

There are about 5,000 Britons in Libya, many of whom have not left the country in spite of warnings from the Foreign Office issued over the past few weeks. British trade with Libya is worth £250 million a year and the Libyan oil sector was the principal importer of foreign goods.

Italians make up the largest body of foreigners in Libya while Italy, Germany and Britain were the principal suppliers of Libya's imports, with Italy accounting for 20.4 per cent of the total. Likewise, Italy was the principal destination for Libyan exports with 41.6 per cent of the total. Germany is in second place with 19.3 per cent and Brit-

ain well down the list with 2.6 per cent.

Germany made a strategic decision some time ago to concentrate its oil purchases outside the heart of the Arab world. After international criticism of German sales of equipment to the Libyan gas weapon plant at Rabta, Germany is unlikely to oppose any tightening of sanctions should that prove necessary.

It remains to be seen how effective the sanctions will be.

In the past year, for which figures are available, Libya apparently imported only £520,000 worth of oil industry equipment. Parts for the Soviet-made military equipment may pose a bigger problem and it is certain that Libya's French-made Mirage

Lourho shares, page 19

Arab states opposed to UN action

Sanctions raise threat of anti-West backlash

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PUNITIVE United Nations sanctions against Libya raise the spectre of a new wave of anti-Western feeling in the Middle East with Colonel Muammar Gadaffi resorting to tactics similar to those used by President Saddam Hussein in 1990, to retaliate.

Reaction against the United States, Britain and France, who led the sanctions drive, is likely to be matched by the feeling in Arab streets against those Arab governments which shoulder their UN responsibilities and impose the penalties fully. Esmet Abdel-Meguid, the secretary-general of the Arab League, has already said that many Arab nations may choose not to implement the sanctions, notably the ban on air links and the weeding-out of Libyan diplomats.

Clinton risks two new tacks

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR
IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton's presidential campaign, battered by the New York press and sinking in its own private polls, took two new tacks yesterday. In an attempt to appear more statesmanlike, the Arkansas governor prepared a strong foreign policy speech opposing President Bush's shortsighted policy towards Russian aid. In an attempt to bypass the city's aggressive tabloid newspapers he challenged his opponent, Jerry Brown, to at least six debates before next Tuesday's primary.

Both were judged big risks. But his advisers saw little alternative. The two candidates are reported to be within a percentage point of each other in a race where a Brown victory could open the Democratic field to all-comers.

When Mr Clinton arrived in New York last week he hoped that his "frontunner" status would allow him the minimum contact with his "nuisance" opponent. But after days of personal attacks which have deepened his distrust by voters, he has chosen to seize every opportunity to debate. Mr Brown's response was to highlight the "jitters" which the decision revealed in the Clinton camp.

"This is a major breakthrough and we are on our way," the former California governor commented on hearing the news outside a church in Harlem. The biggest day of battle could be Saturday, with plans being laid for a "debatorama" in which the two men would fly around the state, tearing into each other at every airport stop.

Today's foreign affairs speech is expected to echo the criticism of the former president, Richard Nixon, who last month accused Mr Bush of being myopic and miserly towards the aid requests of President Yeltsin of Russia. But Mr Clinton will try hard not to appear a generous uncle to foreign nations. The White House will today try to neutralise Mr Clinton's criticism by producing its own aid package.

A national Los Angeles Times poll yesterday put Mr Bush and Mr Clinton within two percentage points. The big surprise was the 21 per cent support for Ross Perot, the Texan businessman, who is close to entering the November race as an independent.

UN flies generals to talks

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PHNOM PENH

IN ONE of the most dramatic moments in the troubled search for peace in Cambodia so far, United Nations officials flew into a clearing to pick up two Khmer Rouge generals and bring them to ceasefire talks in Kompong Thom, scene of recent heavy fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime.

"We flew into the Khmer Rouge zone to pick them up," General Michel Loridon, deputy chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said yesterday. "They had cleared a landing zone in the forest and were waiting for us."

To ensure the security of the helicopter, in an area about 20 miles northwest of Kompong Thom where a UN helicopter was shot at and an Australian officer wounded a month ago, a senior Khmer Rouge officer and representatives from other factions flew in with General Loridon. Talks between the four factions were held in Kompong Thom, a provincial capital 100 miles north of here, in an effort to reach an agreement on a ceasefire in the troubled province.

"We did not yet succeed in achieving a ceasefire, but we did meet some progress, and will meet again," General Loridon said.

● Tokyo: An international meeting on Cambodia has agreed to hold a conference in June on rebuilding the country. (AFP)

media, is increased by Arab conviction that the United Nations is employing double standards by not enforcing resolutions against Israel in a similar fashion.

"Let nobody think anyone imposing sanctions on an Arab country is good news," President Assad of Syria told a joint news conference here with President Mubarak of Egypt, when both men expressed their hostility to the UN sanctions.

Osama el-Baz, President Mubarak's chief adviser on foreign affairs, underlined the anxiety felt in Arab capitals. "How long can we keep the situation under control?" he asked. "How can we guarantee that we do not get into a vicious circle of action and reaction?"

In Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco there are fears that Islamic fundamentalists will exploit sanctions for their own ends to whip up hostility against established governments and to gain popular sympathy. "This is a gift to the fanatics just when we had them under some sort of control," one senior Arab official said.

"Even if Libya were to comply with the extradition resolution in the future, the effects of the sanctions would not end overnight," complained al-Ahram, the Cairo daily. "They will continue to take their toll materially, morally and psychologically, a fact that might ironically lead to an increase in the type of terrorism they were designed to punish."

In Baghdad, the government has been working overtime in the run-up to the UN vote to stir up anti-Western feelings and to muster backing for Libya. Al-Thawra, the Baath party paper, claimed the UN resolution showed that Iraq had been right to warn that other Arab nations would be the "next scapegoats for Western anger."

The paper, reflecting sentiment also voiced in other less radical countries, said: "Such resolutions sound the warning bell of hatred and malice which the West harbours against Arab countries. Their present animosity against Libya is a continuation of the aggression they launched against Iraq in 1990."

In the countries neighbouring Libya there is deep concern about the economic repercussions of sanctions and the difficulties they are expected to bring. Tourism may be an early casualty, Egyptian migrant workers in Libya could feel exposed and there is a widespread belief throughout the Arab world that sanctions will lead to some form of military action against Colonel Gadaffi.

It has been presumed that people close to Rajiv Gandhi,

Medical hearing: Margaret Bean-Bayog, a Harvard psychiatrist, arriving for a hearing of her case at the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine in Boston to answer charges that she had had an affair with a patient who later committed suicide. The board decided that Dr Bean-Bayog's practice

did not constitute an immediate public threat, but said that she had given "sub-standard care" to Paul Lozano, a final-year Harvard medical student worried about making the grade. The board said it wanted a further investigation and referred her case to the Division of Law Appeals for a hearing. (AP)

New Bofors scandal claims job of top Indian minister

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

MADHAVSINH Solanki, the Indian foreign minister, resigned yesterday in a controversy over attempts to stall investigations in the Bofors bribery scandal, which has dogged the ruling Congress (I) party for five years. Indian politicians and bureaucrats are believed to have received about £30 million in "commissions" to ensure that the Swedish arms manufacturer captured a £750 million contract for field guns in 1986.

Mr Solanki went to P. V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, in the morning and offered to quit after the Indian Express reported that he had handed a document to Swedish authorities in January asking them to go slow in their investigation of the Bofors affair.

It has been presumed that people close to Rajiv Gandhi,

were hoots of derision when he said that he could not identify the lawyer. Mr Solanki became foreign minister when Mr Rao came to power nine months ago.

His resignation is an embarrassment to the government, but there will be one advantageous side effect for the administration: the die-hard Gandhi loyalists, still waiting for a chance to regain their lost influence, will be further weakened. Mr Rao has been quietly easing them out of the way, and his job will now be that much easier.

● Stockholm: Torsten Jansson, the Swedish state prosecutor, said yesterday that investigations into the Bofors deal cannot be reopened because the statute of limitations expired this week on any possible violations of Swedish law in 1986. (Reuters)

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● Stockholm: Torsten Jansson, the Swedish state prosecutor, said yesterday that investigations into the Bofors deal cannot be reopened because the statute of limitations expired this week on any possible violations of Swedish law in 1986. (Reuters)

Shamir's support dwindles over Levy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN BET SHEAN, ISRAEL

AT ANY other time in the past 15 years the heated political discussion taking place between a dozen men in this development town's dilapidated shopping precinct would have centred on the benefits of keeping the right-wing Likud party in power.

In the past, the working-class Israelis of Sephardi origin (oriental Jews from North Africa, Iran and Yemen) across the country have remained firmly behind Likud. However, if Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, is still counting on their vote at the June 23 general election then he has failed to grasp the anger and sense of betrayal felt by the 15,500 townfolk when their most famous son, David Levy, the foreign minister, announced that he was resigning in protest over his treatment by the party leadership.

Speaking yesterday Mr Levy, a populist leader with a strong following among his fellow Sephardis, who make up more than 50 per cent of the electorate, repeated his vow to tender his resignation on Sunday because of what he regards as a conspiracy to keep him from power by Likud's hierarchy, most of whom are drawn from the dominant Ashkenazi (European Jewish) community.

"People come up to me in the street to stop me and tell me how angry they are with Likud about the way David Levy has been treated," said Shlomo Ben Lolo, Bet Shean's mayor. He, like Mr Levy, was born in Morocco before his parents emigrated to Israel in the 1950s. His warning was modest by comparison to some of the townspeople who unanimously criticised the ruling party and threatened either to vote for the opposition Labour party or to support Mr Levy if he chooses to form his own faction.

"We cannot abandon David Levy, he represents for us the ability of every Israeli to make it to the top," said Albert Kislevi, who still recalls with bitterness the harsh conditions he experienced in Israeli transit camps when he and his family were treated as second-class citizens in their new home after they emigrated from Morocco.

Those trends should be taken seriously by the Likud party, said Hanoch Smith, a pollster. He predicted yesterday that the ruling party will suffer a further decline in popularity.

"The Sephardi community is half the Jewish vote — a tremendous percentage," he said. "And I would say since 1977 they have determined which party is in power." (Reuters)

Chinese deputies turn on Li Peng

PEKING: Li Peng, China's prime minister, has come under attack at parliament's annual session for his half-hearted support of Deng Xiaoping's calls for radical reform. The criticism came as the media yesterday gave wide coverage of Mr Deng's trip two months ago to the Shenzhen economic zone (Catherine Sampson writes).

Some deputies have cast off their usual timidity to accuse Mr Li of failing to back the senior leader's recent attack on party hardliners and his calls for speedy reforms. The criticism of Mr Li has led to speculation that he is in political trouble.

Arabs cut lines

Nicosia: Arab states say that they are still banning telephone contacts with Israel and some have cut off the direct-dial service which the Israeli telephone company introduced last week through third countries to 11 Arab nations. (Reuters)

Moving base

Agana, Guam: America will turn the western Pacific island of Guam into a key military base to help cushion the loss of Subic naval base in the Philippines, enabling it to deal with "possible threats to regional security", a US Navy official said. (Reuters)

Four shot dead

Antananarivo: Four supporters of President Ratsiraka of Madagascar, including Gaston Laha, a former culture minister, were shot dead by security forces, and several people were injured in clashes at the start of a forum on a new constitution. (AFP)

Corpse banned

Manila: President Aquino's government has banned air-lines and ships from bringing home to the Philippines the remains of Ferdinand Marcos without clearance, and ordered a 24-hour watch on the former president's crypt in Hawaii. (Reuters)

Canberra helps

Canberra: Australia is to spend £68 million to improve the plight of Aborigines, including steps to wean them off alcohol and drugs and reduce their high rate of imprisonment. Robert Tickner, the Aboriginal affairs minister, said. (Reuters)

Baby dies

Miami: Baby Theresa, who was born without a brain ten days ago, has died before her parents could find a court willing to declare her brain-dead and allow them to donate her organs to give other sick children a chance of life. (Reuters)

Argentine pilots forced to adopt kamikaze tactics

ARGENTINE fighter pilots were hailed as kamikazes for their daring operations against the British Task Force during the Falklands conflict. But on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the South Atlantic battle, the pilots said their risky missions had less to do with bravado and more to do with constraints imposed by lack of up-to-date equipment.

"We were called kamikazes and compared with the Japanese suicide pilots of the second world war because of high-risk flights at very low heights. It was not our intention to take such risks; they were forced on us because we had inferior equipment," Colonel Gustavo Piuma-Justo said. He piloted a Dagger fighter plane

in attacks against British amphibious landing craft at the Bay of San Carlos on May 21, 1982. That day he was hit by a missile from a British Sea Harrier and ejected.

The Falkland Islands are more than 500 miles from the air bases of Rio Grande and San Julian in Tierra del Fuego, used by the Argentine's only aircraft carrier — the 25 de Mayo — was removed from action early on in the conflict by the then commander-in-chief of the Armada, (navy) General

Justo, aged 47, said. "We only had firm bases. Our aircraft carrier had been taken out of action by the high command." Jorge Anaya, one of three generals who made up the military junta, for fear of losing it to attacks by British submarines. Colonel Piuma-Justo said: "Often enough to save fuel we had to start off flying very high at 35,000 feet, risking radar detection and come down at

the last minute." That forced Argentine pilots into surprise attacks at 50 feet above sea level to avoid British radars. Colonel Carlos Napoleon Martinez, aged 46, led a squadron of Skyhawks and Mirages in such an attack which sunk the supply ships

Sir Galahad and damaged Sir Tristram, anchored off Fitzroy, west of Port Stanley, on June 8. Fifty British soldiers were killed in that assault. "We flew very low. Almost dangerously low behind a hill which hid us from the fleet. Then we hugged that hill and came down

onto the bay. Within 15 seconds five of our planes were on top of the ships and launched their bombs. We realised we had inflicted enough damage and left. When we attempted a second wave of attacks, the Harriers had been alerted. Three of our pilots were hit and killed."

Colonel Martinez said the attack was only possible because of an evident mistake by the British command in leaving the ships open to attack in daylight.

"We had no equipment to speak of for night flying and that became an obvious problem for us because the task force had the adequate equipment and could operate at night and in bad weather," he said.





CLASSROOM POLITICS

Britain's education system has been destabilised by a decade of political reform. Any further destabilisation could be justified only by the most overwhelming educational priority. Policy must have two goals. It must seek to raise standards overall, so that Britain's workforce can compete with that of other countries. And it must give all children, whatever their backgrounds, the same opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Some of the more drastic reforms introduced by the Conservatives over the past five years should promote the first goal. The government can claim credit for having converted Labour to their importance. The national curriculum will ensure that all children are introduced to the basics of most subjects. Testing at seven, 11 and 14 will monitor those standards and allow parents to begin to estimate the value added by their children's schools. Published league tables of results should spur schools to greater achievement. Reforms of teacher training will eventually filter through to classrooms.

The worry is that the Conservatives' proposed changes to the structure of secondary education will not achieve the second goal. The comprehensive secondary school, to which the Conservatives turned in the 1970s, was built on the premise that the fulfilment of equality of opportunity could not come from early selection. Many Conservatives, who did not oppose streaming or academic selection as such, were strongly opposed to it taking a rigid institutional form as early in a child's life as age 11. Yet John Major is allowing his education secretary to promote a return to precisely the system largely abandoned in the 1960s.

Encouraging certain secondary schools to opt out may well improve education for a minority of mainly middle-class, brighter-than-average pupils, those who already tend to thrive in the comprehensive system. Ministers have to show how this can be achieved other than at the expense of those schools that stay in the local-authority sector and receive children rejected by the new grant-maintained sector. Such children will be those with less pushy parents or lower abilities. Mr Major should appreciate the

evils of such branding. What would have been his parents' "choice" had he failed that fatal 11-plus exam?

Mr Major yesterday boasted that his party would promote "choice" in education by making it easier for parents to choose their children's schools. But all parents will want their children to go to selective schools, as they did following the 1944 Education Act. Selection is Hobson's choice. Popular schools choose their pupils. Only a governing body made up of saints and martyrs would insist on selection being random, rather than on ability. Selection on ability is the key to a school's success in the new league tables and thus its reputation and income.

There were many troubles with the schools that the Tories inherited from Labour. Most are being tackled with reform of curriculum and, above all, local management initiatives designed to rid schools of bureaucratic controls. To them, the concept of opting-out is either an irrelevance or a danger. Already more money is being channelled by the government into its' maintained schools, as reward for opting out. Already a bureaucracy is developing under Whitehall to administer them. Worse, one council after another is seeing in best schools and thus in best teachers departing, leaving it with the old secondary moderns for the rejects.

A comprehensive structure from 11-16, topped by the government's new sixth-form and other "senior high" colleges, may still divide children between those who can afford private school and the rest. Such a system is not so inadequate as to justify its dismantling in favour of Kenneth Clarke's three tiers: private schools, state-maintained selective schools and what are alarmingly being dubbed "the sinks".

Labour and the Liberal Democrats are wrong to assume, as they persist in doing at the behest of teacher lobbies, that all education needs more money and smaller classes. A good teacher can inspire a class of 40 without a book in sight. But they are right to ask that the old structure of state primary and secondary education be allowed to acclimatise itself to the otherwise sound Tory reforms, before being upheaved once more.

JOBS ON THE LINE

Britain's prospects of emerging from recession, now identified by all parties as the question haunting most voters, suffered a serious setback at midnight last night: not on the hustings, but in Geneva. The failure at Gatt's headquarters to meet yet another deadline in the faltering Uruguay Round of global trade talks is no less serious for being universally expected. The entire six-year negotiation is now in bad trouble, with President Bush speaking for the first time of "possible collapse".

Whatever the relative merits of the recovery plans British politicians have concocted, they pale into insignificance beside the impact on growth and jobs of this seemingly technical negotiation. Like Germany, where it has been calculated that the cost of failure could be a million jobs, Britain is exceptionally reliant on open markets. There could be no worse time for John Major, whose grasp of the dangers of escalating trade wars is not in doubt, to be deflected from the battle with Britain's European Community partners on which the Uruguay Round unquestionably hangs.

The problem is not technical but political. The negotiations were unable to conclude the nuts and bolts agreements on tariff reductions, trade in steel and opening markets in services yesterday because no government is prepared to show its hand without clear evidence that the EC will abandon its obdurate defence of agricultural protectionism. Most negotiators believe that if the United States, which is attempting to break the deadlock on farm trade in bilateral talks with the EC, could achieve a breakthrough there, the other problems dogging the Round can be solved.

The final offer from Gatt goes a long way to meet EC objections. Instead of the deep cuts in subsidies and trade barriers originally sought by America and its allies, it would amount only to a cautious first step towards dismantling agricultural protectionism. The EC still demands modifications, objecting in particular to the limits the deal would set on

the quantity of cereals it dumps on world markets and on the direct payments it wants to make to farmers to compensate for reforms in the common agricultural policy. In mid-March, James Baker offered Jacques Delors a further compromise which would allow some payments to go ahead. But that offer, too, has fallen on stony ground.

The heart of the problem is that the French government remains stubbornly opposed to the principle of bringing farm trade under Gatt disciplines, and none of its partners, beginning with Germany, has been prepared to bring the necessary pressure to bear on President Mitterrand. Each is more interested in courting French support for one or other aspect of the tangled business of reforming the CAP. And both these disputes are being left to farm ministers, whose vested interests against reform make them the last people to trust with an international negotiation which vitally affects Europe's trading future and its wider relations with America.

Yesterday's slippage in the timetable at Geneva almost certainly puts paid to hopes of wrapping up the Round by Easter. If a treaty is not ready for signing soon after that, there will not be enough time for the US Congress to ratify it this side of the American presidential elections in November. The talks would go into limbo until next year, in an atmosphere of recrimination — most of it directed at the EC, and with reason — which could unravel the gains made so far and accelerate the trend towards rival regional trading blocks.

A G7 summit will not rescue these talks, unless the EC governments can first agree among themselves on a realistic offer. That is unlikely without an EC summit dedicated to breaking with the corrupt farm politics and wasteful farm policies which are holding the entire world trading system to ransom. Mr Major could give no more confident signal to voters, nor more significant boost to the British economy, than by using his considerable influence with Herr Kohl to set preparations for such a summit in train now.

THE VANISHING NATION

The report on our news pages that Belgium may be dissolved as a unified nation comes as a shock. Belgium is apparently on the brink either of joining some new Benelux grouping, with Brussels as the EC's independent "Washington", or of splitting between Holland and France. Belgium may not be wildly popular among Britons but they went to war in 1914 to support Belgian independence and many an encounter with the Continent begins with soft drizzle at Ostend.

Belgium would be the second country to vanish within two years, following East Germany in 1990. If as is expected the country divides between its historical neighbours, its two halves would each bring great strengths to their new homes. Belgium's Flemish is softer and more delicate than the harsh gutteral accents of Dutch, and The Netherlands may find that its generally unpopular and little-spoken language now commands more interest and study abroad.

Wallonia's chefs in the south would be free to compete with the French on equal terms. Belgian cuisine has made the country famous. To most Americans Belgium is a country of chocolates and waffles. It is a matter for regret that this distinctiveness would be lost, but France is the gainer. The French, ever conscious of gastronomic excellence, may at last cease making derogatory "Belgian jokes".

Yet there must be a tinge of regret that Bel-

gium's chaotic politics have brought the country to this pass. Agatha Christie will be unintelligible to a younger generation if there is no Belgium to which Hercule Poirot can claim allegiance. And the Mannekin Pis will lose its charm as the encapsulation of Belgian culture and the model for many an elegant fountain. René Magritte, the great surrealist painter, loses his bite if his mocked bourgeoisie is placed in a French context. Tintin can surely not be relegated to EuroDisney. The fun will go from that, favourite parlour game: "Name five famous Belgians."

Chief gainer would, of course, be Jacques Delors. The decaying Berlaymont offices could be relocated in one of the great buildings in Brussels soon to be redundant: the imposing Palais de Justice, the Heysel stadium or even the royal palace. Europe, with a self-governing capital of its own, could truly enjoy the accoutrements of world power, able to honour its founders and the visionaries who settled on this city as their base: Jean Monet, Robert Schuman, perhaps even Margaret Thatcher — who did more to unify the EC than any other modern leader.

A monument should also be erected to M. Delors himself, believed to be the principal architect of the breakup of the EC's host country. Assuming today's decision goes ahead, to him should go pride of place in the famous Grand' Place, renamed to commemorate the date: *Place du 1er avril, 1992*.

The system was fought by those whom Mr Longley condemns as "radical political economists", e.g. Cobden and Bright, the Anti-Corn Law League and their convert, Sir Robert Peel. Parallels with the Euro-

Business letters, page 23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Press scrutiny of candidates' lives

From Sir Richard Storey

Sir, The code of practice upheld by the Press Complaints Commission proscribes, under "privacy", all "intrusions into an individual's private life" unless published "in the public interest". Under "discrimination", it states that the press "should avoid publishing details of a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation, unless these are directly relevant to the story".

This means that it would be in breach of that code for a newspaper to publish that a general election candidate is, for example, homosexual or Christian — unless such assertions are saved by being "directly relevant to the story", and "in the public interest".

I accept that the judgment of "relevance" and "public interest" will always be open to dispute. Equally, however, I have no doubt that it is an editor's duty to seek and publish details of all personal characteristics and opinions of candidates who voluntarily offer themselves for appraisal by the electorate.

That would not be the case were a member of Parliament merely a postman, though only with reading and counting electors' opinions and then voting in accordance with the majority: basic literacy and numeracy would then suffice.

I believe, however, that an MP is a plenipotentiary. It would follow that there is a public right to know everything about all candidates that might influence the way voters support them: only in this way may voters judge whether candidates are likely to represent them in Parliament to their satisfaction.

Generally, the sexual or religious preferences of MPs must be expected to influence their attitude towards family life; specifically, such preferences could affect members' opinions on the desirability of homosexuality in the armed forces, the police, and the Church of England, and could prevail on their views about the age of consent at which practising homosexuality becomes legal.

That knowledge of a candidate's characteristics influences how people vote is beyond doubt. Thus, in a democracy, can there be any doubt on whether newspapers should publish the kind of information to which I refer?

I write in my personal capacity and do not seek to represent the views of my company or its employees.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD STOREY
(Chairman, Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers),
Sexton House, Malton, North Yorkshire.

In the dock

From Mr Norman Macleod

Sir, In a recent crown court case I represented a client who had been granted unconditional bail, had no previous convictions of any sort, and was of unblemished character. Even before the case had reached court the Crown Prosecution Service had indicated that it was going to offer no evidence in relation to the one charge that remained from the magistrates' hearing.

My client had therefore only to appear to have the matter disposed of and to deal with the question of costs. None the less, he was required to step first inside the dock, then into the staircase leading thence to the cells and there to remain behind a heavy door, together with a prison officer, until the judge appeared.

He had then to re-enter the dock, where he remained for a minute or so, whilst the case was dealt with. He left the building, as he had arrived, without a stain on his character.

Why should this be? Why, when security is not an issue, should any client be obliged to stand in a place and on a spot that is quite clearly associated with most people's minds with crime and guilt? Why should he not be allowed to sit with his lawyer in the body of the court?

I would like to see the dock abolished, save for the most exceptional cases. I believe that it is an absurd, undignified and stigmatising anachronism, quite out of keeping with the presumption of innocence.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MACLEOD,
Macleod Widdowson (solicitors),
Ashdown, Wardside, Hertfordshire.

Market forces

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Pace Clifford Longley ("Market forces too often clash with social justice", March 28), Friedrich von Hayek and his school argued that the market maximises well-being of all classes and that intervention weighs most heavily on the poor. If Mr Longley wishes to refute this thesis, he must first comprehend it.

Mr Longley's claim that "thousands died... in the Irish famine, victims of the belief of their masters that any intervention in the workings of a market was a kind of sacrilege", is wholly untenable. On the contrary, the Irish starved precisely because the Corn Laws put the landed interest above the workings of the market.

The system was fought by those whom Mr Longley condemns as "radical political economists", e.g. Cobden and Bright, the Anti-Corn Law League and their convert, Sir Robert Peel. Parallels with the Euro-

Discrepancies on science spending

From Professor T. J. Biscoe

Sir, Alan Howarth, Under Secretary of State with responsibility for science (letter, March 27), must be living on another planet along with his acolytes in the DES for all the relevance his statements have to the condition of our major research universities. He knows that the proportion of GDP spent on the science base has fallen from 0.35 per cent to 0.28 per cent. His officials at least must know that this takes no account of the fall in the resources granted through the Universities' Funding Council.

He has the gall to lecture us on pride and generosity, when it is the overweening pride of successive holders of his office and their absence of generosity, coupled with a profound ignorance of the nature of the scientific life, that has led to the present plight of our national heritage. Now he claims there are increases in funding for science, he cannot really expect us to accept that these will recompense the universities for years of forced neglect of rundown buildings and equipment.

Does he really comprehend the needs of modern science, or even care very much? I doubt it since he and his fellows seem not to be persuaded that the country desperately needs an advanced science base to support its technological aspirations. It will not do to pretend we can buy in the technology as we need it, for without our own internationally competitive teaching and research base no one will know what to buy.

There is also a continual failure to comprehend the importance of curiosity-driven research. For example, the work on penicillin by Florey and Chain was viewed at the time it was begun as one of purely scientific interest. Incredibly, there are still ostriches around who do not care why the sky is blue and would never fund Tyndall, who found out.

As to whom we should support, it would be nice to be able to believe that "the Conservative party respects

no indication of who will carry their banner in my constituency. Perhaps it doesn't matter any more, given the over-kill national coverage given to the party leaders.

But, as one of the "great undecided" so far in this election, I would like to know now a little about the background and personalities of the local candidates, to help me make up my mind. I believe this is important.

Will no one fight the war for Wilcox's ear?

Yours truly,
JOHN WILCOX,
126 Ebury Street, SW1.
March 30.

Independent schools

From Dr C. J. Tyerman

Sir, We are now two weeks into an election campaign which, informally, has been waged since the end of the Gulf war. No party could have been caught unprepared by the announcement of election day.

And yet, sitting here in the middle of London — which the media tells me could be a decisive battle ground — I still await news from each of the parties about their local candidate and his or her beliefs and policies.

I have had very prompt requests for financial support from both the Tories and Liberal Democrats, but

who cannot afford to, or who do not

wish to use the private sector sub-

sidise independent schools?

Stronger links between the private

and public sector would be better

forged through a sharing of facilities,

co-operation in teacher training, and

a greater willingness on both sides to

recognise the unity of the teaching

profession and the common needs of

abled children? Either they are in-

dependent or not.

The charitable element of the assisted places scheme is taxpayers' charity, not independent school charity. Arguably those schools accepting assisted place' pupils are admitting that independence is not enough. Equally, why should taxpayers who have decided not to, or

until now, not

wish to use the private sector sub-

sidise independent schools?

Yours etc.

CHRISTOPHER TYERMAN,

80 High Street,
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

March 28.

Gospel dispute

From Prebendary John Linford

Sir, Your reporter suggests surprise ("Bishop disputes gospel of John", March 28) at the Bishop of Durham's view of St John's gospel. It is well time that we had a better idea of what the gospel writers were actually trying to do.

Anyone who reads St John's gospel objectively and compares it with the other three must come to one of two conclusions: either John knew a totally different Jesus, or he is attempting something rather different, in his gospel, than a literal account of the life and words of the historical Jesus.

I would like to see the dock abolished, save for the most exceptional cases. I believe that it is an absurd, undignified and stigmatising anachronism, quite out of keeping with the presumption of innocence.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN LINFORD,



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: Mr David Beatty was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Confederation at Berne.

Mr Beatty was also received by the Queen.

Lieutenant General Patrick Duffell was received by the Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander, British Forces Hong Kong.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as

Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 31: Miss Jane Walker-Olkover has succeeded Dame Francoise Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 31: The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Educational Corps, this morning received Major General Denis Ryan (Representative Colonel Commandant) and Major General Clifford Kinwigg (Director).

Birthdays today

Miss Brigitte Astokes, immunologist, 69; Mr George Baker, actor, 61; Professor A.M. Barrett, former vice-chancellor, Buckingham University, 60; Mr David J. Davies, chairman, Johnson Matthey, 52; the Rev Norman Drummond, headmaster, Loreto School, 40; Professor R. Floud, provost, City of London Polytechnic, 50; Sir Anthony Gill, chairman and chief executive, Lucas Industries, 62; Mr David Gover, 55; Sir Paul Hasluck, former Governor-General of Australia, 87; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, 73.

The Earl of Ilchester, 72; Miss Gail Johnson Houghton, jockey, 51; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, 66; Professor M.L. McElroy, chemist, 68; Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny, 66; Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, Russian and Balkan historian, 74; Mrs Marie Patterson trades unionist, 58; Mr Charles H. Price, 61, American diplomat, 61; Professor W.C. Price, physicist, 83; Mr Stephen Renn, brewer, 71; Dr R.C. Rowntree, brewmaster, St Cross College, Oxford, 56; Professor Sir Peter Tizard, paediatrician, 76; Miss Sheila Whirraker, director, London Film Festival, 56; Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 63.

Memorial service

Mr Paul Maxwell
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Paul Maxwell was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Egan officiated.

Mr Ed Bishop read the lesson and Mr Don Fellowes read Coop's *Table d'Hoté* by Eugene Field. Mr Manning Redwood, Mr Bernard Spear and Mr Tony Parker gave addresses.

Miss Jane Sherriff, soprano, sang *Francis Panis Angelicus* and Mr John Myatt sang *Duna*, accompanied by Mr Roger Phillips piano. Miss Helen Horton, Miss Starr and Miss Maxine Adey also took part in the service.

Among others present were Mr Maxwell's widow, Mr and Mrs Simon Murray (son-in-law and daughter); Mr Jerry Harpe and Miss Julia Mackenzie, Miss Hazel Vincent Wallace, Miss Libby Morris, Mr Mike Cowan and Miss Sara Leighton. Mrs Audrey Seddon, Mr Peter Moffat and Miss Joan Kemp Welch, Mr Leo Maguire, Mrs Manning Redwood, Miss Bernard Spear, Miss Carol Royle and Mrs Anthony Parker.

Monmouth School

Monmouth School has made the following awards for September 1992:

ST HENRY EDITIONS: E.J. Clarke, 1st; Michael Lewis, E.C. Whittle, 2nd; Stephen Lovell, C.R. Whittle, 3rd; **ST HENRY'S MEDAL**: J.L. Smith, 1st; **ST HENRY'S SCHOOL MEDAL**: E.J. Shepherd, Great Bedwyn School, 1st; **FOUNDED SCHOLARSHIP**: E.W. Cheng, 1st; **ST HENRY'S SCHOLARSHIP**: J.W. Campbell-Baldwin, The Elms, Colwall, H.J.K. Mackay, 1st; **ST HENRY'S SCHOLARSHIP**: G.W. Werry, Colwall, 1st; **ST HENRY'S MEDAL**: **ST HENRY'S SCHOOL**: L.D. Harpenden, 1st; **ST HENRY'S COLLEGE**: J. H. Tait, 1st; **ST HENRY'S TALENTED**: Cathedral School, Llandaff.



Michael Powell's winning photograph for *The Times* of a sculpture by Richard Wilson created around a 2,600-gallon tank of engine oil, forming a huge mirror, at the Saatchi Gallery in London

Award for Times opera critic

A SPECIAL award for "pioneering lifetime achievement as an arts journalist" was presented to John Higgins, obituary editor and opera critic of *The Times*, in London yesterday. The only winner of the award was Joan Bakewell, the broadcaster.

The £1,000 cheque was handed over by Sally Burgess, leading mezzo-soprano with the English National Opera and Opera North, at the BP arts journalism awards ceremony at the BAFTA centre in Piccadilly.

In the sixth year of the awards, win-

ners in each category received cheques for £1,500 for work in arts and heritage reporting in the United Kingdom in 1991. Cheques for £500 were presented to those who came second.

AWARDS
Photography: Michael Powell (*The Times*) and Gerard Uheras (*The Independent Magazine*); (no second prize); highly commended: Gerard Lewis (*The Independent*), Edward Sykes (*The Independent*).

Press: Andreas Whittam Smith, (*The*

Independent); second: Jim Low (*Independent Courier*); highly commended: Mark Lawson (*The Independent Magazine*).

Radio: Beaty Rubens (BBC Radio 4 *Kaleidoscope*); second: Frank Delaney (BBC Radio 2); highly commended: Ingrid Hassler (BBC World Service), Mike Owen (RMF FM).

TV: Martin Davidson and Benjamin Wooley (BBC2 *Late Show*); second: Mark Lavender (Tyne Tees TV); highly commended: Andrew Burroughs (BBC TV).

LATEST WILLS

E11320,350 net. He died 11/1/92.

Mr John Bertram Passons, of Stockerton, Leicestershire, left

estate valued at £1,639,871 net.

Mr John Eric Milne, of

Grazley Green, Reading, Berks,

left estate valued at £1,252,388 net. He died

intestate.

Mr Denis Cedric Levy, of

Liverpool, left estate valued at £1,949,118 net.

Mr Derek Anthony Weeks, of

Long Ashton, Avon, who died

intestate, left estate valued at

Mrs Mairi Audrey Holt, of

Dibury, Manchester, £541,383.

Mr William Henry Mathew, of

Coulson, Surrey, £676,587.

Mr Lawrence Sudcliffe Nutall, of

Hale, Greater Manchester, £581,714.

Mr William Stans, of

Hornchurch, Essex, £620,573.

Mr John William Scott, of

Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, £179,815.

Mr Adelys Blanche Batters, of

Hilfrow, Middlesex, £686,393.

Mr Glynn Earle Welby-Everard, of London SW15, £592,528.

Mrs Edith Irene Sherriff, of

Roundhay, West Yorkshire, £611,855.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. Bowen-Jones

and Miss V. Townsley

The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs Adrian Bowen-Jones, and Victoria, fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Townsley.

Mr R.D. Griffiths

and Miss S.J. Coombes

The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of Mr and Mrs Norman Griffiths, of Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Coombes, of Norwood Hill, Surrey.

Mr J.C.L. Hearn

and Miss V.E.L. Hornsby

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs C. Hearn, of Chertsey, Surrey, and Victoria, youngest daughter of the Reverend Edgar and Mrs Hornsby, of Cambridge.

Mr R.A. Webb

and Miss F.D. Hildred

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs G. Webb, of Wheadonsthorpe, Herefordshire, and Pamela, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.V. Hildred, of London.

Mr R.A. Youngman

and Miss L.J. Roberts

The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.H.S. Kelly, of Taunton, Somerset, and Linda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Roberts, of Ealing, London.

Mr P.M. Village

and Miss A.H. Wallis

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 28, at the Temple Church, London, EC4, of Mr Peter Malcolm Village and of Mrs Margaret Wallis, daughter of Mr Bert Wallis and the late Mrs Eileen Wallis, The Master of the Temple, Canon Joseph Robinson, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rose Village, Henry Village, Archie Village and Louis Village. Mr Donald Norman was best man.

A reception was held in the Parliament Chamber of the Inner Temple. The honeymoon will be spent in India and Switzerland.

Marriage

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Temple. The honeymoon will be

spent in India and Switzerland.

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Fieldhouse

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Fieldhouse, of Gosport, will be held in Westminster Abbey at noon on Wednesday, May 27, 1992.

Those wishing to attend are asked to apply for tickets, by not later than May 6, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to: The Admiralty Receiver General (Protocol), Room 27, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted on May 13. Tickets will be issued on an individual basis and applications should include the full names of all those who wish to attend. Admission to the service will be by ticket only.

Sir John Starr Paget

A service of thanksgiving for Sir John Starr Paget will be held on Friday, April 3, at Christ Church, Victoria Road, London, W8, at noon.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

BIRTHS

The Lord said to him, Who is it that is on man's heart? Who makes him dumb or deaf? Who makes him lame or blind? Who makes him deaf or dumb? Who makes him lame or blind? Exodus 4 : 11 (REB)

MARRIAGES

MORDEN/PATRICK: On Saturday, March 28, at St. John the Evangelist, Morden, after a short service, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Morden, son of Morden, to Mr. and Mrs. Amanda Jane Patrider, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David and Linda Patrider, of Morden.

BREES: On March 28th, to Charles and Rebecca Breslin, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

DAVIES: On March 28th, to Charles and Rebecca Davies, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

CLARKE: On March 28th, to Alison, 21, and Duncan, 21, daughter of Keith and Rose Syed, of Isabell Grove, Kirby.

DAVIDSON: On March 30th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Davidson, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

EDIE: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Edie, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

FRITH: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Frith, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

HAINES: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Haines, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

HIGHAM: On March 28th, to Catherine and Ennis Higham, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

KARSTEN: On March 23rd, at the Linda Wing, St Mary's, Charlton, to Mark and Linda Karsten, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

KELLY: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Kelly, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

LEWIS: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Lewis, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

MCNAUL: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth McNaull, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

MACKENZIE: On Tuesday, March 24th, in Carlisle, to Ian and Linda Mackenzie, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

MARSH: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Marsh, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

MATTHEWS: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Matthews, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

MORRISON: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Morrison, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

NEAL: On March 28th, to Christopher and Elizabeth Neal, 20, of 108, Breslin Mills, a son, Alexander Charles George, a brother for Marcus.

Japanese announce 'emergency' measures

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE Japanese government's economic planning agency has announced an "emergency economic package", aimed at stimulating Japan's faltering economy, the first since 1987, when the economy was stung by the rapid appreciation of the yen.

The package includes measures to encourage utilities and local government to make 75 per cent of their public works investments in the first half of the new fiscal year, which begins today.

The government believes the new package will provide domestic demand worth Y2 trillion (£9 billion), improve business and consumer sentiment and allow the government to achieve its 3.5 per cent annual economic growth target. The latter was has been revised down from 3.7 per cent, against the actual 5.5 per cent recorded for 1990-1.

Weakness in the futures market and a sell-off of speculative stocks on the last day of the fiscal year left the Nikkei index 323.36 points lower at 19,345.95. The potentially positive effects of the expected cut in the official discount rate were overwhelmed by a feeling of "too little too late".

One Tokyo stock exchange trader said: "The financial markets have been crying out for a further ODR cut, but [Yasushi] Mieno [governor of the Bank of Japan] has held off for so long that the effects of a reduction when it comes will have already been discounted by the markets."

Highly sceptical that the package will be sufficient to boost an economy that shrank 0.2 per cent in the last quarter of last year, the private sector has interpreted the package as a short-term political measure aimed at boosting economic confidence in advance of the July elections to the upper house of the Diet, Japan's parliament.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the

prime minister, said the package would ensure that "public and private investments in the first half of fiscal 1992 will increase Y5 trillion from a year earlier". Amid widespread expectations of a cut — possibly today — in the discount rate, Mr Miyazawa said he trusts the judgment of Yasushi Mieno.

Yesterday's emergency economic package urges the Bank of Japan to adopt a "flexible monetary policy", a thinly disguised call for a reduction in the ODR. Expectations rose in Tokyo markets of an imminent 0.75 per cent cut to 3.75 per cent. Tsoomo Hata, the finance minister, said he believes the new economic package will allow Japan to achieve the government-estimated growth rate of 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1992.

Economists in Tokyo branded the emergency measures as little more than window dressing, saying the economy needs new money before it can be revived. "If the government is not prepared to put new money into the economy, this package will do nothing to change corporate sentiment or sentiment in the financial market," said Jesper Koll of SG Warburg.

Yesterday's news is expected to be followed by a supplementary budget in the autumn to boost domestic spending in the second half of the year. Private sector economists have forecast a fiscal package worth at least Y3 trillion and a reduction in the ODR to 3.5 per cent will be necessary before the economy can rebound fully.

"The economy needs a full 1 per cent cut in the lending rate, a Y4.5 trillion fiscal stimulus and measures to boost the stock market," said Stephen Cohen, managing director of Warburg Investment Trust Management in Tokyo.



Tyne Tees recovery averts loss

BY MARTIN WALLER

A SHARP resurgence in the second half saved Tyne Tees Television Holdings, the ITV contractor for the North-East from a 1991 loss. The company scraped into a £213,000 pre-tax profit against £5.78 million, despite a £2.95 million halfway loss.

A final of 9.5p makes a total down from 19p to 14.5p. Advertising revenue fell 6 per cent.

However, the first two months are likely to be ahead by about 7 per cent, against a recovering industry average of 10 per cent.

For the second half of 1991 pre-tax profit was 35 per cent ahead of the comparable period in 1990. The successful £14.5 million bid for its ITV franchise cost Tyne Tees £3.4 million after tax, taken as an extraordinary item. The company remains confident it can remain profitable into the next franchise period and for 1992.

DE BEERS, the diamond group, has won back into its Central Selling Organisation marketing fold the Siberian republic of Sakha (Yakutia), on whose behalf, and under a new sales agreement, the CSO will market all the republic's gem diamond production.

Sakha, an autonomous republic within the Russian federation, contains the most valuable and richest of the diamond mines in the Commonwealth of Independent States. By decree in December, Sakha was granted the right to market 10 per cent of its own production.

The potential that the republic had to bypass the CSO with a certain percentage of its gem diamond production could have undermined the raison d'être of CSO, whose goal has always been to ensure stability of diamond markets and the prices of rough gem stones.

This week's new sales agreement with the republic, signed by Sakha's president, Mikhail Nikolskay, and by Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman of De Beers Centenary, removes market fears that the CSO would have been bypassed.

Under a July, 1990, exclusive agreement, De Beers secured a \$5 billion, five-year sales contract to market all of Russia's rough gem diamonds.

Last December, however, and in the wake of political changes, President Yeltsin of the Russian federation issued a decree whereby Sakha secured the right to retain 10 per cent of its rough gems for independent sale.

The right was, however, never exercised. After recent negotiations between De Beers and the republic, Sakha has now agreed formally that the CSO will handle marketing arrangements for all 100 per cent of its gem production.

This serves as proof of the continuing close relations

De Beers scoops Siberian gems back into sales fold

BY COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Macfarlane falls but dividend increases

PRE-TAX profits at Macfarlane Group (Clansman), the Glasgow packaging company, fell by a quarter to £6.55 million over 1991, but the company has maintained its 19-year record of annual dividend increases. Difficult trading conditions and accounting changes, which required the company to place £804,000 of restructuring costs above the line as an exceptional item, hit profits.

The final 2.49p dividend makes 4.24p for the year, a 5 per cent increase. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, said he was confident that the profit setback was temporary and that it was prudent to pay a higher dividend. The increase reflected "the board's confidence in the underlying strength of the business".

Avonmore advances

ORGANIC growth and global expansion helped Avonmore Foods, the Irish food and dairy products group, lift pre-tax profits 22.6 per cent to £16.3 million (£15.2 million) last year. Group turnover advanced 15.1 per cent to £157.2 million. Operating profits from the dairy products division jumped to £15.1 million (£19.6 million) on turnover of £1364.9 million (£1308.3 million). The meat division saw profits dip to £5.2 million (£15.3 million). There was an extraordinary debit of £1.55 million. Earnings per A share were 10.83p (10.9p). The final dividend on the A shares is 10.65p (10.5p), making 13p (12.75p), while the B shares receive a final of 10p (10.5p), making 1.75p (1.5p).

Johnston Press up

JOHNSTON Press, the regional weekly newspaper publishing and bookselling group, is raising its dividend after an 8.4 per cent rise in full-year profits. Improved efficiency and tighter cost controls enabled the Edinburgh company, which publishes 60 titles spread from Fife to Sussex, to lift pre-tax profits to £7.6 million in the year end-December, against £6.74 million last time. The figures were boosted by reduced net interest costs and an exceptional gain of £348,000. A final dividend of 3.5p (3.25p) gives an improved total of 5.5p (5p). Earnings per share rise to 18.7p (15.9p). The shares added 5p to 298p.

BNB raises payout

BNB Resources, the recruitment, advertising and public relations group, is raising its dividend despite a 40.3 per cent decline in full year profits. Pre-tax profits slid to £2.69 million in the year to end-December, from £4.51 million, on turnover down from £65.3 million to £54.9 million. The company said the results were "highly respectable in view of the worst trading conditions experienced in our industry sectors for a decade". BNB's recruitment companies remained profitable. The final dividend is being raised to 8.3p (3.1p), giving shareholders 4.9p (4.6p). Earnings per share rose to 8.3p a share (14.5p). BNB shares firmed 2p to 37p.

Wardle quits Ferry

PETER Wardle, the non-executive chairman of Ferry Pickering Group, has resigned from the board of that company with immediate effect because of the recent failure of another company with which he is associated as a non-executive director. Mr Wardle believes it is not appropriate for him to remain on the board of a listed company in such circumstances. Graham Nixon, a former chief executive of Ferry Pickering, has been appointed executive chairman of the company. Peter Godfrey, a group executive director with operational responsibility, has been appointed chief executive of Ferry Pickering.

Watts, Blake drops

WATTS, Blake, Bearn & Co, the ceramic products group, says that lost sales in the year ended December, coupled with generally depressed trading conditions, left pre-tax profits 27 per cent lower at £5.7 million. Sales rose by 9 per cent to £61.4 million. There are tentative indications that trading conditions are improving, the company says, but "another hard year lies ahead". Dr Ingram Lenton, the chairman, says that further overhead reductions are planned. The final dividend is held at 6.6p, making an unchanged total of 9.3p a share.

Car wash takeover

RICHARD Palmer's European Motor Holdings is buying Casemount, parent company of Wilcomatic, the biggest supplier and servicer of automatic car washes in Britain, in a deal funded by a £17.4 million, four-for-three rights issue. European is paying £5.5 million — £1.7 million in cash and the balance in new shares to be taken by the vendors, and repaying £12.9 million of debt taken in with the 1989 Wilcomatic management buy-out. Wilcomatic has service agreements with over half the estimated 4,000 car washes on petrol forecourts in Britain and says its machines washed 52 million cars last year.

Tempus, page 22

Some of the tools our MBA students need to take on an assignment for you this summer.

On the London Business School MBA programme, there are some of the brightest and most clear-thinking young people in the world.

Collectively, they come from 53 countries, speak 29 languages and have 742 years of business experience.

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Examples of recent projects include:

- developing a business plan
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- analysing key success factors
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In fact, there is no end to the number of potentially valuable projects our students could carry out for you — and virtually no end to the variety of skills and experience which they are able to bring to your business.

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For further information, contact:

ENGELS — HOLLANDSE BELEGGINGS TRUST N.V.
(English and Dutch Investment Trust)
Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday 23rd April 1992 at 12.00 hours at the office of the Company, Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam. Shareholders wishing to attend the general meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the meeting with Hollandse Koopmansbank N.V. Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam or with Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LY. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the meeting that they intend to attend the meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, One Aldgate, London EC3N 1RE at least ten days before the meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the certificate holders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1991 and of the Resolutions to be put before the meeting will be available at the offices of the above named.

By order of the Board

HOLLANDSE KOOPMANSBANK N.V.
MANAGEMENT
AMSTERDAM
1st April 1992

THE TIMES

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COMPANY BRIEFS

MAYFLOWER CORP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.07m
EPS: 1.91p (1.56p)
Div: Nil (nil)

SERVOMEX (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.06m (£1.94m)
EPS: 13.8p (12.7p)
Div: 3.9p, mkg 5.7p

HEADLAM GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £321,000
EPS: 2.38p (2.9p)
Div: 1.65p, mkg 2.4p

ESTATES & GENERAL
Pre-tax: £2.3m (£2.77m)
EPS: 4.59p (4.82p)
Div: 2.525p, mkg 3.75p

GARTON ENGINEERING
Pre-tax: £1.38m (£1.61m)
EPS: 25.84p (17.06p)
Div: 5.25p, mkg 7p (7p)

SWALLOWFIELD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.21m (£2.37m)
EPS: 14p (16p)
Div: 3.9p, mkg 6.1p

GASKELL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £225,000
EPS: 3.1p (16.1p)
Div: 5.5p, mkg 8.5p

AB ELECTRONIC (Int)
Pre-tax: £oss 23.95m
EPS: 13.7p (6.2p)
Div: Nil (nil)

MOWAT GROUP
Pre-tax: £oss 1.97m
EPS: 1.28p (EPS: 0.65p)
Div: Nil (0.5p)

TRAFFORD PARK
Pre-tax: £1.62m (£1.44m)
EPS: 1.672p (1.435p)
Div: 0.85p (0.85p)

JACOBS (JOHN I) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £612,000
EPS: 1.90p (3.63p)
Div: 1.4p, mkg 1.8p

BILSTON & BATTERSEA
Pre-tax: £120,000
EPS: 2.0p (5.1p)
Div: Nil, mkg nil (8p)

AFRICAN LAKES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.65m (£1.55m)
EPS: 6.48p (7.77p)
Div: 2p (2p)

DELANEY GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £oss 247,000
EPS: 0.6p (2.4p)
Div: Nil

Last time's profit was £236,000. Turnover dropped to £3.99m (£4.83m). First-quarter sales are up on last time.

Turnover fell to £45.2m (£49.4m). Extraordinary gain of £187,713, compared with a gain of £40,403 last time.

Last time's loss was £825,000. Extraordinary debits of £131,000 (£746,000). Turnover fell to £21.8m (£26.7m).

LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD

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Decline in building output forecast to last until 1994

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING industry output is set to fall 4.5 per cent this year, and show no recovery until 1994, according to a forecast by the National Council of Building Materials Producers (BMP).

If Labour were to win the election, output would decline an additional 3 to 4 per cent this year and continue to fall next, BMP's forecasting panel said.

The panel, comprising representatives from more than 25 member firms, believes modest expansion of some forms of public sector construction and repairs under Labour would be insufficient to balance lower spending by

the much larger private sector.

However, a study last year by Goldman Sachs, the stockbroker, concluded that the building materials industry would do better than most under Labour.

BMP's latest forecast paints a more gloomy picture of the construction industry's prospects, even under a Conservative government, than its last forecast, issued in November. BMP's expectation of a 4.5 per cent decline in output this year remains unchanged. But instead of a 2 per cent increase next year, expected earlier, BMP now expects no growth next year.

Nurdin suffers from Sundays

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SUNDAY trading by the supermarket groups and the effects of the recession on caterers and independent grocers have affected Nurdin & Peacock, the cash and carry chain in which SHV, the Makro-owning Dutch group, has a 9.4 per cent stake.

Nigel Hall, the group's finance director, said that the decision by the major supermarket groups to open on Sunday affected the trade of independent grocery customers and consequently sales at Nurdin & Peacock, but he said it was difficult to quantify how much of the sales decline was due to Sunday opening and how much to the general economic climate.

"Since December, few supermarkets are opening on Sundays and the situation has recovered. But there is the possibility that they will open mass at Easter or next Christmas and I hope we will be in a better position to respond," he said.

Overall group pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent to £27.6 million in the year to December 29. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to £1.37 billion but like-for-like sales fell 4.5 per cent. Three branches were opened and the group now has 16 trading seven days a week. Interest receivable fell from 8p to 15p.

Wellcome picks sale managers

Robert Fleming, global coordinator for Wellcome Trust's planned international sale of part of its 74 per cent holding in Wellcome, which is likely to take place in early July, has named eight regional lead managers for the offering, confirming that it aims to spread shareholdings across the world.

Apart from America and Japan, there will be separate managers for Switzerland, France and Germany.

Cazenove and SG Warburg will lead in Britain with Fleming's affiliate, Jardine Fleming, leading in the Pacific rim and Fleming itself handling the rest.

Vaux buys pubs

Vaux Group, the North-East brewer and hotelier, has paid £13.5 million for 113 public houses bought from Whitbread and Innrepreneur Estates, the Courage-Grand Met joint venture. Vaux now has almost 900 pubs.

Croda cuts

Croda International's shares rose by 17p to 163p yesterday, despite a cut in the final dividend from 6.9p to 4.75p. Pre-tax profits fell to £21.3 million (£33.7 million).

Tempus, page 22

Main American index improves

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence that America's economic recovery is re-establishing itself was provided by the government's main economic forecasting gauge, which showed a 0.8 per cent rise in February, and by an upward revision to the January figure.

This was the first consecutive monthly gain in the index of leading indicators since mid-1991. The January rise was put at 1 per cent, up from the 0.9 per cent initially reported.

The improvement was on a broad front, reflecting a longer working week, money supply growth, higher building permits, rising raw materials prices, improving consumer confidence, bigger consumer goods orders and slower deliveries. Fears that the recovery could peter out again, as it did last year, prompted 100 leading American economists to write an open letter to President Bush on Monday, demanding action, including an interest rate cut.

The Bush administration has publicly voiced its confidence in the recovery, but had coupled its confidence to the Federal Reserve being able to ensure adequate growth in the money supply.

The latest index of leading

indicators adds to the evidence of recovery that was most markedly provided by official figures on new home construction and the pickup in sales of existing houses.

The bureau of labour statistics has revealed that about 650,000 Americans who became unemployed early in the recession did not figure in the jobless data. In the year to March 1991, the undercount removed 40 per cent of those losing their jobs from the official lists, partly due to bankruptcies and the call-up for the Gulf conflict.

In France, a special committee headed by Pierre Bérengé, the finance minister, has downgraded growth expectations for this year. The gross domestic product is now expected to expand by only 2 per cent this year, against the 2.2 per cent assumed in the budget. Consumer price inflation, currently at an annual 3 per cent, is expected to slow to an annual 2.8 per cent this year.

The finance ministry said the improvement in the American economy probably heralded a pickup in growth worldwide. It expects world economic growth to be growing by 2.5 to 3 per cent by next year.

A knight replaces a lord at Bupa

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

SIR Bryan Nicholson, the chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, is to be the next chairman of Bupa, Britain's largest health insurance group.

He is taking over from Lord Wigoder, QC, who is retiring after 11 years. He joins Bupa in October, when he also becomes part-time chairman at the Post Office. He will remain at the Post Office in this capacity until next March to allow the government time to choose his successor.

Lord Wigoder, aged 71, postponed his retirement to

help Bupa after it announced that losses in its insurance business had topped £61 million in 1990 and Peter Jacobs took over as chief executive. The group reported a pre-tax profit of £1.3 million for last year earlier this month, although the insurance business still lost £40.7 million before investment income was taken into account.

Bupa expanded from health insurance to being a provider of healthcare as well during Lord Wigoder's time. It had no hospitals when he joined in 1981, but it is now Britain's

Leeds chief says societies' ills are self-inflicted

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies should stop blaming the housing market and the economy for all their ills, Mike Blackburn, the chief executive of the

faced in recent times has become a permanent feature of life in the financial services sector. It may prove to be cyclical, but it is certainly not an aberration.

Mr Blackburn, who was chairing a building society conference at the Portman Hotel in London, said: "Many of the financial problems being suffered by building societies today are self-inflicted. They are the result of business strategies which in today's harsh light of recession are seen to be flawed.

"Those that ventured into commercial lending in a big way have generally suffered major provisioning costs. Those that built up large estate agencies have discovered the true cost of bad timing."

He was also critical of societies that went into equity release mortgages on the back of a rising market and now regret doing so.

The Leeds, the fifth-largest society, was one of few to report a double-figure increase in 1991 profits. Its pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £190.2 million after total provisions, including writing off interest of £88 million.

Mr Blackburn was critical of the government when it was holding negotiations with societies last December to set up £1 billion of mortgage rescue schemes. At the time, he recalled that it was John Major who, as Chancellor, had said of the high interest rates: "If it isn't hurting it's not working."

Yesterday, Mr Blackburn said: "However much we may blame the handling of the economy — and I confess to being pretty vocal, if not brass-necked, on the subject myself — there is no doubt that for many societies, diversification has simply meant that they were saddled with several millstones."

He added: "My own view is that the turmoil we have all

seen in recent times has become a permanent feature of life in the financial services sector. It may prove to be cyclical, but it is certainly not an aberration."

Norcross sells to cut debts

NORCROS, the building materials, printing and packaging group, has cut debts by selling a number of properties in Essex and Oxfordshire for a total of £3 million (Philip Pangalos writes).

The proceeds from the disposals, of which £2.6 million will be deferred for up to three years, will be used to reduce the group's borrowings to below £120 million. This represents gearing of about 80 per cent, compared with 100 per cent at the interim stage.

Michael Doherty, chief executive, said the group hopes to reduce the ratio to below 50 per cent over the next year.

The disposals include two factories at Braintree, Essex, and Wantage, Oxfordshire, which will raise £22.75 million. Both have been leased back to Norcross for 25 years, with five yearly reviews, at initial rents amounting to £2.6 million per annum.

The remaining properties are part of the development division, which stopped trading about 18 months ago and will realise £16.2 million.



Dug by recession: Don Lewin mistakenly thought Clinton would be immune

Clinton Cards goes into the red

By OUR CITY STAFF

CLINTON Cards, the greeting cards retailer, felt the full effect of the recession last year, which left the company with a pre-tax loss. Don Lewin, the group's chairman, said he had not expected the recession to go on so long or to be so comprehensive.

Capital spending by the water companies is expected, by BMP, to offset the decline in factory and warehouse construction, supporting the private industrial sector. Because of pressure on the public sector borrowing requirement, public non-housing spending is expected to fall next year and in 1994 after a 2 per cent rise this year.

However, "much needed" public sector repair and maintenance would benefit from Labour, the BMP says.

In the devastated office building sector, BMP has scaled back its forecast decline for this year from 30 to 25 per cent because falling prices have enabled developers to get more work for their money. However, BMP sees no prospect of an upturn in this sector. "The industry is in for another difficult year," BMP says.

Three new sales forces have been established and the group is experimenting with a delivery service for caterers. Richard Fulford, the group's chairman, said that last year had been an extremely difficult year. "Our planned capital expenditure programme for 1992 will increase to £45 million, primarily on new units and refurbishment to existing branches, as we continue our heavy investment for the future. Sales this year to date are up on last but margins remain under pressure in a highly competitive market place." The shares fell 8p to 15p.

Clinton Cards' pre-tax profits fell 20.4p and the group has chosen to pay a reduced final dividend of 2.25p, making a total for the year of 3.75p, down from 5.25p.

Costs have been reduced. Around 200 jobs, 10 per cent of the workforce, were cut. During the year 14 shops were opened, four were closed and a further three stores were relocated.

Mr Lewin is confident of an upturn this year. The last eight weeks have been good and some shop sales are currently 8 per cent ahead of last year. "We had a good Christmas, a good Valentine's Day and a good Mother's Day," Mr Lewin said.

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TEMPOS

Croda cut could turn to thrust

CRODA International's decision to cut its final dividend from 6.9p to 4.75p a share recognises what a bloody year 1991 was. The interim cut six months ago from 4.1p to 2.75p a share, so a trimmed final comes as no real surprise.

Croda says trading in the first two months of 1992 is "well up", albeit from very depressed 1991 levels. If that trend continues, and pre-tax profits make something of a recovery in 1992, then the cut dividend may prove to be short-lived.

All three core divisions — chemicals, coatings, cosmetics and toiletries — suffered lower turnover and lower trading profits in the year to end-December, and group pre-tax profits fell from £33.7 million to £21.3 million. Net earnings turn out at 10.9p a share, against 17.45p. From here on, when dividends are paid, they are more likely to be covered at least twice by net earnings.

The interest charge was £1.1 million higher at £6.1 million, and gearing at year end had risen from 31 per cent to 38.5 per cent. This level will be attacked in 1992, with the prudent level

of 25 per cent in mind.

The worldwide headcount has fallen from 3,322 to 2,806, and further job losses are likely. The capital investment programme, involving an £80 million spend in the past four years, goes on.

Childs, which led the 1989 buyout of Wilromatic, will end up with almost 8 per cent of European, where Mr Palmer and Ann Wilson, the finance director, are completing a clean-up operation. The deal is funded by a four-for-three rights issue at 105p. Existing holders of European are locked in because the Stock Exchange requires that the shares remain suspended at 123p until the rights issue is completed, on April 21 — by which time the country, and the stock market, could be a different place.

There is still much work to do at European, which will probably turn in a £1.3 million loss this year. Other businesses remain to be sold and there is legal action outstanding by the new management team, but by next year profits of £4 million-plus look achievable.

The shares remain a straight gamble on the ability of Mr Palmer and his colleagues to repeat their success, but the omens are general.

European Motor Hldgs

RICHARD Palmer has never lacked for friends among the City institutions, ever since he converted £5.5 million worth of motor dealerships in Western Motors into £100 million over a three-year period. He now has another, in the shape of Phildrew Ventures, which is opting to take shares in its latest vehicle in return for its stake in the

Wilromatic car wash business, which Mr Palmer's European Motor Holdings is buying for £18.4 million.

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Ann Wilson: clean-up

Lonrho shares tumble as broker resigns

FOUR companies today become constituents of the index of the top 100 companies. Lonrho, Tiny Rowland's group, is one of the four companies losing a place in the index. The troubled international trading group saw its shares tumble 13.4p to a low of 65.4p after UBS Phillips & Drew suddenly resigned as the company's joint broker.

The others losing their places are Royal Insurance, down 64p at 180.4p, Trafalgar House, 10p cheaper at 113p, and Tarmac, 6p lower at 123p. They will be replaced by ECC, 12p better at 507p, Siebe, 7p dearer at 646p, Coats Viyella, 1p higher at 196p, and Bowater, unchanged on 741p.

P&D's resignation comes just days after Lonrho announced that it had sold a one-third stake in its Metropole Hotels chain to Libya for £177 million. Lonrho apparently failed to brief its broker on this disposal. Lonrho's links with the Libyan govern-

ment have been criticised in the City. This has led to fears that Fidelity Life, the American fund manager, may be forced to sell its 10 per cent stake in the group rather than be compromised by sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing.

Meanwhile, in the rest of the equity market, the absence of sellers enabled market-makers to keep control of the situation with share prices losing an early lead and so finishing lower on the day. The FT-SE 100 index ended 12.8 points down at 2,440.1. Yesterday's turnover was 475 million shares and was again swollen by a series of bed-and-breakfast deals, aimed at establishing year-end tax losses.

Government securities spent a nervous day, closing with losses of 4p at the longer end, despite a steeper performance by the pound.

Thorn EMI firm 2p to 737p on news that 94 per cent of its rights issue had been taken up.

Wellcome surged 47p to 10.49 as the brokers to the share sale by the Wellcome Trust were announced. Cazenove and Warburg Securities will act as managers for the London end of the sale.

Speyhawk, the property developer, tumbled 3.5p to 2.5p after plunging further into the red with pre-tax losses at the halfway stage of £216.8 million, against a loss last time of £2.8 million. The figure was struck after write-offs totalling almost £204 million on property investments and developments in progress.

There is no dividend. The group has been in talks with a consortium of 46 banks and

has now agreed a financial restructuring of its debt burden and reorganisation of its share capital. The news from Speyhawk sent another shudder through the troubled property sector. Falls were seen in Bradford Property, down 3p at 134p, City Site, 6p at 60p, Evans of Leeds, 4p at 120p, Mountview Estates, 20p at 920p, Ossory Estates, 14p at 134p, Property Partnerships, 5p at 200p, Rosehaugh, 14p at 54p, and Trafford Park, 2p at 52p. The property sector also continues to depress the high street banks which fear further provisions for bad and

Smith & Nephew managed to buck the trend, hardening 1p to 149p, as investors continued to switch from rival Reckitt & Colman, down 3p at 632p. SGN is expected to see its pre-tax profits grow from £152.4 million to £149 million in the current year.

doubtful debts. City analysts have already begun downgrading their pre-tax profit estimates for the current year with County, NatWest, WoodMac and Kleinwort Benson starting the ball rolling on Monday. There were losses for Bank of Scotland, down 3p at 102p, Barclays, 11p at 306p, Lloyds, 7p at 378p, Midland, 7p at 350p, National Westminster, 8p at 271p, and The Royal Bank of Scotland, 8p at 154p. Nurdin & Peacock, the cash-and-carry food retailer, fell 8p to 156p after an increase in full-year pre-tax profits of £1.8 million to £2.6 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR CHANGES

	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 31	Mar 30
Amicable Smaller Units (500)	462	—	Mar West	269p (+100)		
Avisable Group (108)	102	—	General Accident	391p (-120)		
Brent Walker (25)	31	—	Trafalgar House	113p (-100)		
CRP Leisure	27	—	TI	631p (-100)		
ECC Group	507p (+10)	507p (+10)	Mountview	225p (-200)		
Brayton	346p (+10)	507p (+10)	Lonrho	65p (-100)		
Burnham Castro	543p (+10)	543p (+10)	Metropole	165p (-136)		
Granada	230p (+10)	230p (+10)	Morland	453p (-100)		
Granada	230p (+10)	230p (+10)	Alcon	513p (-240)		
Wellcome	1048p (+27p)	1048p (+27p)	Kingsfisher	471p (-120)		
FALLS:			CLOSING PRICES..Page 25			
Barclays	307p (-10p)					

RECENT ISSUES

	Amicable Smaller Units (500)	Avonite Group	General Motors	Platinum A
Avisable Group (108)	102	—	Enviro & Metal Fds Inc	124p
Brent Walker (25)	31	—	Enviro & Metal Fds Inc	124p
CRP Leisure	27	—	Rovers (11)	—
ECC Group	507p (+10)	507p (+10)	Templeton Eng Min C (100)	99
Brayton	346p (+10)	507p (+10)	Under-Water (AFD) 1/1/92	158
Burnham Castro	543p (+10)	543p (+10)	Wagstaff (BED)	—
Granada	230p (+10)	230p (+10)	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Wellcome	1048p (+27p)	1048p (+27p)	Addison Consultancy N/P (12)	—
FALLS:			Bowater N/P (12)	118
Barclays	307p (-10p)		Brainerd P/P N/P (65)	—
			Concord P/P N/P (15)	118
			Trinity Ind Top N/P (15)	14

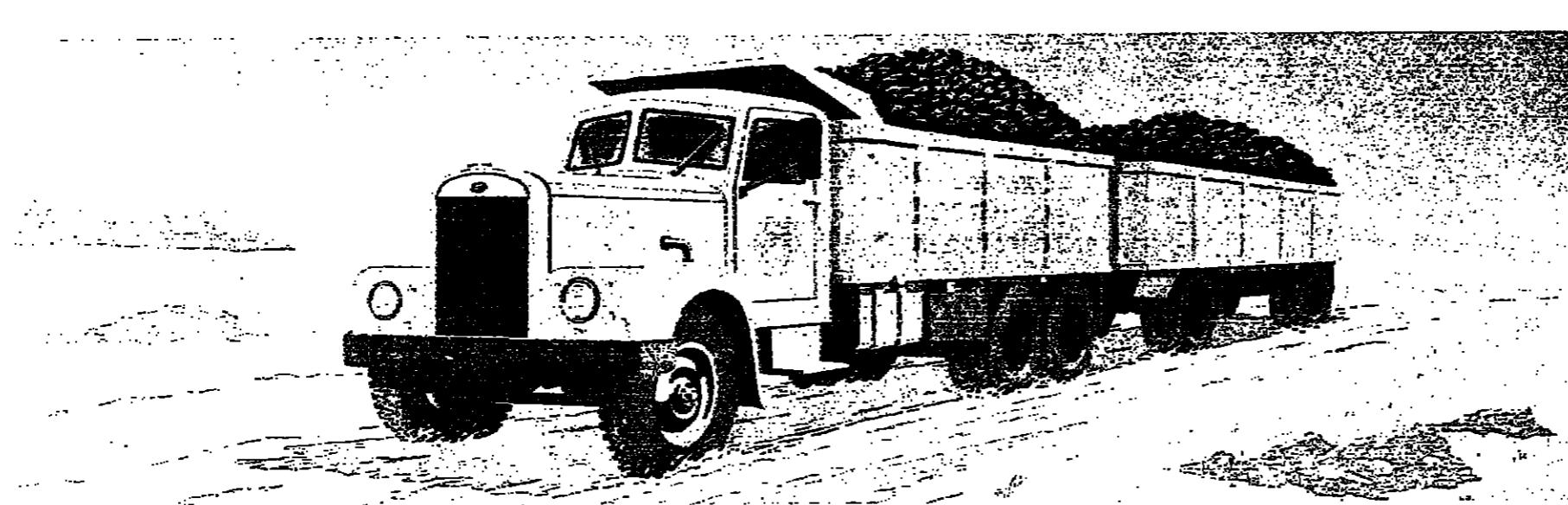
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PIECE OF COAL.



PEACE OF MIND.



You can get your coal from just about anywhere in the world these days. Unfortunately that's about all you will get. You're unlikely to get any sales back-up. You won't get much quality control. More importantly, you probably won't get any help if something goes wrong. Perhaps that's why so many major British companies look no further than British Coal to supply their energy needs.

Because whatever your individual requirements, you know you can rely on our network of specialist engineers up and down the country to make sure you get the right fuel at the right time as well as ensuring that your plant is running at optimum efficiency. They can help plan your industrial or commercial boiler plant. They can advise you on selection of equipment. They can give you guidance on energy management.

They can train your plant operators and supervisors. In fact, the only thing they probably can't do is teach you Russian. For a piece of advice, you can call Mark Hopes on 071-235 2020. Or for peace of mind, write to him direct at British Coal, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.

**BRITISH
COAL**

INDUSTRIAL
SALES

tumble signs

Spreading that Wellcome mat

Wellcome shares are fast regaining their poise after news that the Wellcome Trust is planning to float part of its stock in the summer. They climbed 47p yesterday to £10.49, but remain some way off the peak of £11.73 reached early in February. The planned offer unsettled the market initially. The prospect of a £4 billion sale quickly wiped out the sizeable scarcity element in the price. Some holders also took profits, hardly surprising given that the shares were a mere £5 little more than 12 months ago.

The announcement that Flemings, global co-ordinator for the sale, had appointed the blue chip houses of Cazenove and Warburg to lead the issue in Britain was warmly received in the market, reinforcing the view that there is still excellent value in the shares despite their meteoric rise in the past year. Also helping to lift Wellcome's price yesterday was the thought that existing holders may be given preferential rights in the forthcoming issue. If, as appears increasingly likely, the offer generates strong international demand from continental Europe as well as America and the Far East, a prior presence on the share register may prove worthwhile and even profitable insurance.

Most attention has been focused on Retivir, the group's anti-Aids treatment, but the main growth product in the near future will probably prove to be the herpes drug Zovirax, whose users are widening. Last year these two compounds alone generated sales growth of 31 and 34 per cent respectively. Analysts foresee operating margins widening to 30 per cent in the next couple of years while pre-tax profits climb from £403 million last year to around £620 million in the 12 months to the end of 1993. Wellcome shares look set fair with strong growth in the pipeline, an excellent research record and greater potential to boost earnings through new products than bigger rivals such as Glaxo.

Slow in Tokyo

Problems, problems. Japan's economic planning agency is worried. The economy grew by only about 4.5 per cent in 1991 and shrank by 0.2 per cent in the final quarter, causing forecasters to predict a sharp brake on growth to little more than 2.5 per cent this year. An emergency economic package was brought in on the last day of Japan's financial year, using the classic Japanese method of bringing forward public sector capital spending into the first half of the new fiscal year. There is already a strong hint of a second package in the autumn.

The key to boosting growth, as in any other economy, is confidence. Things are worse than the headline figures might suggest. Industrial production, which dropped sharply in the last quarter of 1991, is expected to keep falling for at least the next two quarters. A boost of £9 billion, which the government hopes to achieve through its capital spending manoeuvres, will hardly reverse that without a change in sentiment. The stock market is even more negative. The Nikkei index dropping nearer to 19,000 yesterday. The key to reversing that might be a further cut in the Bank of Japan's discount rate. From 6 per cent in mid-1991, the rate was cut three times with a final move to 4.5 per cent timed ahead of the new year holiday to make businessmen make their 1992 plans in more cheerful mood.

This time, however, Yasushi Mieno, the bank governor, seems reluctant to play the recovery game. He was still resisting widespread calls for a further rate cut of 0.75 per cent yesterday, perhaps because of the diplomatic fallout of any ensuing drop in the yen/dollar exchange rate.

The portable phone business has suffered a number of early failures. **Mark Newman** assesses its chances of staging a recovery

So many people bought mobile phones in the late-Eighties that the Celling and Vodafone cellular radio telephone networks began to creak and shudder under the weight of calls. Subscribers found that making a call from their car on the M25 was about as easy as trying to sell a raincoat in the Gobi Desert.

While Celling and Vodafone increased capacity, the trade and industry department seized on a British success story. Lord Young, then trade secretary, licensed seven new competitors using two other technologies to make Britain a nation of mobile phone users.

Telepoint was an economy one-way communications system for business people out on the road. Personal communications networks (PCN) offered a second generation cellular technology that might replace the ordinary telephone.

Three years on, almost as many subscribers are handing back their phones as there are new people buying them. Having grown by 95 per cent in 1988, 70 per cent in 1989 and 34 per cent in 1990, the cellular telephone population grew by just 7 per cent last year to 1.23 million. Six out of the seven new competitors — four telepoint and three PCN systems — have been sold, wound up, or merged.

Celling and Vodafone are more worried by the recession than any threat from telepoint or PCN. Did the DTI jump too fast into a confusion of untried technologies or is the drive to a mass mobile communications market just taking a recessionary detour? The answer lies somewhere in the middle.

Certainly, the telepoint experiment was a disaster. As Peter Grindley and Saadet Toker, of the London Business School, say this month in a report on the telepoint fiasco, "rarely has a product had such a total lack of interest". Telepoint was conceived as a "call box in your pocket. You could make calls wherever you saw a sign with your system's name on it. The signs were located in city centres, stations and motorway service stations.

Users shunned the service as it only allowed outgoing calls. The report also says: "It was launched with three incompatible systems so that users were never sure whether their handset could be used or not." As for the service operators, they "made almost no effort to publicise the system". Three of the four telepoint systems, including BT's Z-Phone, were wound up last year. After a year in service they had only 5,000 customers between them.

The three PCN networks are not due to start operating until late 1992 or early 1993. The need for heavy investment of between £500 million and £1 billion for each network over the next few years has, however, already scared off many of the original shareholders.

Two of the PCN companies, Mercury Personal Communications and Unitel, agreed to merge last month, while the third, Microtel, was sold to Hutchison Telecom, of Hong Kong, in July 1991. The merger between Mercury Personal Communications and Unitel followed a year of desperate searching for new shareholders to replace three of the original four companies holding stakes in Unitel.

This coming and going of shareholders and the high investment requirements are likely to delay the launch of at least one of the PCN systems. David Steadman, the managing director of Hutchison Telecom UK, believes that the systems could also be delayed because "there are several technology problems we don't know the answer to". PCN is a highly sophisticated digital system and the UK will be the first country to have PCN networks.

When Lord Young unveiled his plans for PCN in 1989, he called it "a new generation of mobile systems" that would be "distinct from cellular radio systems". By now, it is clear that anything PCN operators will be able to do, Celling and Vodafone will also be able to do, probably as well. Vodafone has already announced details of what it calls a micro-cellular network which will open on the same day as the first PCN service at similar price levels.

Lord Young's decision to license seven more mobile telephone operators — all in the same year — has, however, been heavily criticised. In particular, the DTI has come under fire for announcing the PCN initiative on the same day as awarding the four telepoint licences. James Dodd, a telecommunications analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, believes that the timing of the announcement "rather cut the telepoint initiative off at the knees".

Derek Arnold, the chief executive of the now defunct Mercury Callpoint, one of the four telepoint licensees, says the government "shot telepoint in the foot" with its policy. The DTI also raised a few eyebrows by awarding three PCN licences when it had been expected to award only two. Richard Goswell, the managing director of Mercury Personal Communications, had always maintained that "three PCN operators is too many" because of the high investment requirements. Mr Goswell's view is supported by financial modelling carried out by Arthur D Little, the American management consultancy. This indicates that the maximum number of cellular telephone operators that any market can support is between three and four. The UK was meant to have five operators — two cellular and three PCN — and even now that it only has four, it could be one too many according to Arthur D Little.

Mr Redwood's answer to accusations of a reckless government approach to awarding licences is that "companies approached the DTI wishing to exploit a new technology and we did not promise every plotter of gold".

Many companies that were to have played a role in the mobile communications bonanza have fallen by the wayside over the last two years, but one has reaped a harvest from the misfortune of others.

Until 1990, Hutchison Telecom

Twilight zone: Lord Young's policy to expand the cell phone market became disconnected

Time to decide what's in a Name

From the former Chairman of the Association of External Members of Lloyd's

Sir, Your excellent "Comment" on Lloyd's future (March 30) almost despairingly declares: "If Lloyd's could only decide whether Names are investors or proprietors much else would fall into place." This made more painfully true because at the moment, despite 20 years of commissions, parliamentary debates, council by-laws directives and regulations, and numerous committee deliberations, members of Lloyd's are neither fish nor fowl, having no say or participation in their syndicates — an essential ingredient of both investor and proprietor.

Even external members of Lloyd's council remain the ignorant illusion that syndicates belong to the managing agents.

David Rowland's Machiavellian mishmash of mistakes fails to answer the question your "Comment" so neatly poses: but raises a cloud of new proposals and alternatives which has

had the effect of blinding the real issues that should be faced. Lloyd's is in danger of drowning in its own mess of self-analysis, reappraisals and re-considerations.

The way out is not by further wranglings and investigations, but by concentrating on promoting good underwriting and eliminating abuses such as the LMX spiral which the current crisis has disclosed. A decision as to whether Names are to be proprietor or investor involves increasing the participation and rights of Names in their syndicates and imposing a greater obligation on managing agents and underwriters to share in the misfortunes of their Names. The Rowland report imposes the whole burden of most of its recommendations on Names. This burden must be shared more than equally by agents and underwriters if the proposals are to have any chance of restoring the confidence of the members of Lloyd's.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MITCHLEY,
15 Bryanston Square, W1.

Accentuating the negative in regional variations

From Mr C L Barnes

Sir, I refer to the profile of John Grieves, senior partner of Freshfields, by Carol Leonard, on March 28.

My father was a chartered accountant in Stratford-on-

Avon, where we lived in a small house. I was at school in Cheltenham, I trained as a chartered accountant in Leamington Spa and am in practice in Coventry.

Like John Grieves, I have

no trace of a regional accent. I do not, however, like being patronised.

Yours faithfully,
C L BARNES,
22 Queens Road,
Coventry.

Real life returns

From Mr M A Jones

Sir, Despite the comments of Mr Norden (letters, March 27), with-profit endowment policies continue to be a safe, secure means of long-term investment which for many people provides their principal form of saving.

Current reductions by some companies in bonus rates reflect the relatively poor performance of stock market and property investments; they are calculated to make minimal impact on policyholders.

The main point to consider is the purchasing power of maturing investments. Current and forecast inflation

levels are well below those experienced in the 1980s so although maturity values are a little lower now in monetary terms, they are not necessarily so in real terms.

Life insurance policies maturing now are likely to have been taken out ten years ago or more when bonus rates, both reversionary and term, were significantly lower than they are today. Current maturity values are well in line with policyholders' reasonable expectations.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. JONES,
Chief Executive,
Association of
British Insurers,
51 Gresham Street, EC2.

British Gas is reviewing procedures for the utilisation and charging of its UK pipeline transportation system.

A consultation document setting out our current thinking on the subject is now available.

We welcome the views of interested parties and have set aside the next eight weeks for consultation.

For further information and to obtain a copy of "Gas Transportation: A Public Consultation Document" dial

FREEPHONE 0800 220 356, or write to John Higgins, British Gas plc, Gas Transportation Services Dept, 22nd floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4OP.

British Gas



Survivors try to make the cellular telephone upwardly mobile again

was little known outside Hong Kong. A buying spree in Britain has since brought it a PCN licence, a telepoint licence, a mobile data licence and a radio paging business. Mr Steadman reckons that this has cost only half as much as if Hutchison had entered the market one or two years earlier.

Resurrecting the telepoint initiative is Hutchison's first heroic task: it is the only telepoint developer left so is under no competitive pressure to launch, and says it is "testing the system to destruction" before putting a product on the market.

The service will, however, be launched in city centres by the end of the year. This time, telepoint will be marketed as a service for people who already own cordless handsets that can be used at home or in the office and do not need to buy a special new handset.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to use the cordless telephones currently available for telepoint since it uses different technology known as CT2. CT2 handsets are expected to be appear on the market shortly. Manufacturers will also market them as cordless telecom systems for offices.

Hutchison is hoping that once people have bought CT2 phones for their homes or offices, it will be possible to persuade them to pay a subscription fee of around £10 per month to use them on the telepoint network. Such is Mr Steadman's confidence in telepoint that he believes "people will adopt cordless telephony in mass numbers before they will adopt cellular".

Mr Goswell, at Mercury, believes that PCN will also be a huge business. While many independent forecasters have toned down their original estimates of between 10 million and 14 million subscribers to personal communications systems by the year 2000, he is still sticking to his belief that it will be the lower end of this bracket.

Mercury Personal Communications hopes to persuade people to replace their fixed BT line with a Mercury PCN phone. Initially, however, it seems likely that Mercury will position its service somewhere between the cellular systems and the ordinary fixed telephone service. The first PCN subscribers will be a combination of business people who have not been able to afford a cellular phone and the upper end of the residential market.

In their report on the "opportunities and pitfalls" of the mobile communications industry in the Nineties, Messrs Grindley and Toker say the market is not in doubt. Malcolm Ross, a senior consultant at Arthur D Little, also claims "there is substantial underlying demand and a willingness to pay for personal communications".

The real question is whether the PCN and telepoint operators will be able to provide the types of services that match the needs of consumers. If they cannot, an accusing finger may again be pointed towards a government that tried to take the fast road to making us a nation of mobile phone users.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Academic Hamilton

CITY Index, bookmaker to the City, may regret the day it wooed 18-year-old Angus Hamilton from his studies at Southampton University to man their telephones. Today Hamilton, still sporting and betting mad and now all of 25 years old, starts up in direct competition to CI — prices will be on Reuters screens this morning — with Sporting Index, which will specialise in sporting, rather than financial, events. Hamilton left CI in 1987 to begin his first betting venture in Edinburgh. His backer fell victim to the recession and Hamilton now has a new team behind him, with Compton and Hellyer — a steward at Kempton and Warwick and also head of the syndicate that owns Docklands Express, third favourite in Saturday's Grand National — as his chairman. To avoid any conflict of interest, Sporting Index will not offer a price on Docklands Express but instead it will make a market in Party Politics, of 21-23. "It's spread betting as opposed to fixed-odd betting," explains Hellyer. "There are 30 fences and so if you think Party Politics will jump more than 23 fences, you would buy at 23, or if you think it will jump fewer, you should sell — just like the stock market." A £10 buy stake could win £70. Hamilton hopes to extend Sporting Index beyond the City but admits that it may be difficult to explain the concept of spread betting to the general public. "Prices can go up and down," he says. "But it's much more exciting. You can win and lose much more."



"It's perfectly all right all right — the chairman is with Bupa."

Coup de ballet

THE English National Ballet has achieved something unheard of in arts sponsorship — it has exceeded its sponsorship target for 1991-2 by £250,000, pushing its total for the year to £590,000. This news will strike an envious chord within the Royal Shakespeare Company, still seeking a replacement sponsor for its tour of *Richard III* after British Telecom pulled out. According to Richard Shaw, director of public affairs at ENB, its success is owed in part to the continuing support from key business sponsors such as Digital Equipment, Cable and Wireless, National Westminster and Ladbroke with a big contribution coming from the company's new production fund launched by the Princess of Wales in November. Supported by individuals and businesses, the fund has raised £142,000 and this has been matched funded by the Foundation for Sports and Arts (backed by the big pools

companies) and is well on course to raise £150,000 by June. The fund-raising has been so successful that ENB now has hopes of a commercial sponsor to back a new challenge grant in the coming financial year. If BT raises its head as a potential backer, the RSC will not be amused.

Trotting to Fox
MICHAEL Jenkins, aged 59, Liffe chief executive since it started in 1981, is to succeed Andrew Large as chairman of Fox, the London Futures and Options Exchange. The move follows the announcement that Large, former chairman of The Securities Association, will succeed David Walker at the SIB in June. Large has for the last six months been sorting out the problems at Fox — previously he was an independent banker — after the resignations of Saxon Tate and Mark Blundell. The last few months, Large says, have been "very traumatic and difficult" for Fox but the problems are "now behind us", he hopes. Jenkins, who will theoretically be non-executive, walks into a clean operation where the main job is reviewing future direction, which is likely to involve refocusing on traditional soft commodities.

Last orders

A SIGN of the times: The Arbitrators in Throgmorton Street closes today for lack of business.

The departure of the options market from the Stock Exchange tower was the final blow but the once-private members-only wine bar and club was also a casualty of the dwindling numbers of arbitrators.

CAROL LEONARD

Accusations fly after Davis Cup defeat

Noah decides to stand down as captain of France

Paris: With recriminations ringing almost as loudly as the cheers of last year's epic Davis Cup tennis victory in Lyons, Yannick Noah, the French captain and acknowledged inspiration behind his team's success, has decided to stand down.

Noah's decision comes just two days after the Davis Cup title-holders were eliminated in the quarter-final by Switzerland, when the hardest hitting of the tie happened off the court, with the captain criticising the preparation and attitude of his leading two players.

Noah told the national sports daily, *L'Equipe*, in an interview published yesterday, he had told the players he would resign to concentrate on a music career before the tie in Nimes, which France lost 3-2.

"I told them three weeks

ago," he said. "It's out of the question that the Davis Cup becomes my thing ... It's enough. In five or six years time, we will see ... But now I want to do something else."

Noah, controversially, dropped Guy Forget and Henri Leconte, so triumphant in Lyons, from his singles line-up to face Switzerland, saying both were off form and not fully fit. Noah, however, expressed disappointment with the two players in a long and sometimes bitter interview in which he accused Forget and Leconte of resting on the laurels of victory instead of concentrating on the job in hand.

"Basically it was a case of two guys who said: 'We've won the cup, that's great,'" Noah said. "Henri said: 'The Davis Cup is my life.' No, his life is to play and win matches. It's not because he's won

once that everything is accomplished."

"Look at Guy's results since the beginning of the year. Fine, he beat [Ivan] Lendl but in comparison with his ability, he has not come up to his real level. Henri has won one match."

"I feared this would happen. We even spoke about it on the night we won the cup. The guys agreed with me. They won't be surprised to read this." Noah said Forget and Leconte were at such a low level in training that he and the team reserve, Olivier Delaune, had beaten them in doubles practice.

Until the defeat to Switzerland, Noah had an unbeaten record as non-playing captain, taking over the French team at the start of last year and taking them to their first Davis Cup title in 59 years.

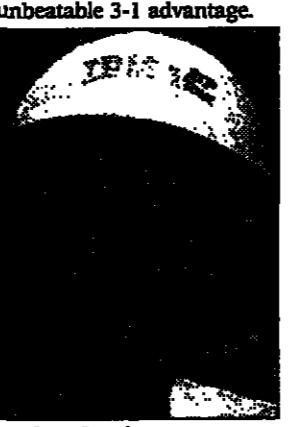
Forget and Leconte, close friends and former Davis Cup playing partners of Noah's, both expressed disappointment at his decision. "I told him I would like him to stay on," Forget said. "Yannick is irreplaceable. We will talk about it again, I hope I can make him change his mind."

Leconte added: "It's a pity because we get on extremely well and it's a shame to finish on a losing note. But Yannick has created a team spirit which can carry on without him."

Forget and Leconte played in the doubles in Nimes, coming back from two sets down to win and keep France in the tie for 24 more hours.

Noah said he had already had enough of the Davis Cup. "It was taking me nowhere," he said. "Look I've been the black captain of the French team and we sang 'Saga Afric' [the title of Noah's hit single]. There's nothing else to do ... now I want to concentrate on music."

Leconte said later in a radio interview that Noah's comments on him and Forget were "stupid and idiotic". He added: "It leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth. It's a pity. I'm disappointed. Everyone has to take his share of the blame ... When the captain announces he will be leaving by next season, psychologically you don't approach the tie in the same way. It wasn't good to tell us first." (Reuters)



Courier likely to receive cup call

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Fort Myers, Texas: Jim Courier, who lost his No. 1 world ranking to Stefan Edberg last week, may be recalled for the Davis Cup semi-final against Edberg's Sweden. "My opinion is that the best American player should be playing," John McEnroe said. McEnroe still has the confidence of the US captain, Tom Gorman, despite his doubles defeat to Czechoslovakia in the quarter-finals last weekend.

Andre Agassi, whose two wins in the quarter-final defeat of Czechoslovakia took his Davis Cup record to 16 wins out of 20, and McEnroe are virtually certain to be picked.

"I wish I had more spots. I wish Davis Cup would go to four out of seven. We'd be totally dominant," Gorman said. He has to choose among Courier, Pete Sampras, who won only one of his singles against the Czechoslovaks, and Michael Chang, who has won his last three tournaments. Both Courier and Chang are difficult to beat on clay, which is the surface the Americans will probably pick for the semi-final at Minne-

Courier: lost status

MOTOR RALLYING

Kankkunen roll aids Sainz

Nairobi: — Carlos Sainz, of Spain, was just a day away from his first victory in the forty-first Safari Rally after yesterday's 1,023km fifth stage. Sainz, in a Toyota Celica, led the Lancia Integrals of Jorge Recalde, of Argentina, and Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, by 28 minutes and 54 minutes respectively.

The Spaniard had led the world's toughest rally from the start, with one or two worries over the turbo and a few small punctures his only moments of uncertainty.

Kankkunen, the world champion, was lucky to be still in the race, however. A moment's indecision early in the morning saw his car hit a bank at a tight bend and roll, ending back on its wheels. The Finn was unhurt.

"It was like slow-motion in the movies. I have a broken windscreen and the roof is pushed down — only body-work damage but we are doing fine," Kankkunen, the winner last year, said.

Juha Piironen, his co-driver, said: "It was lucky I was wearing a helmet because the roof came down on the co-driver's side and there was a big bang."

Mechanics reshaped the roof of Kankkunen's car to fit a new windscreen.

Sainz, who was deposited as world champion by Kankkunen last year, reported turbo problems during the stage but decided against immediate repairs.

He had an accumulated penalty of one hour and 47 minutes at Baringo,

3,445km through the six-day. The fifth leg took the cars through steep hills along the volcanic western Rift Valley and into the plains of northwestern Kenya. The drivers followed the narrow and dusty roads to Nyeri, at the foot of snow-capped Mount Kenya.

□ Paris: Fisa, the international motor sports federation, has postponed a decision on whether the 1992 world sportscar championship will go ahead. Indications are that it will, however.

□ Rome: Andrea Moda, the Italian Formula One team, has signed Perry McCarthy, of Britain, and Roberto Moreno, of Brazil. The drivers will contest the Brazilian grand prix at Interlagos on Sunday. (Agencies)

BRIDGE

British women score encouraging success

By ALBERT DORMER

IN A fine display of commitment, four British women have stung American pride and pleased the selectors who had just chosen them for Britain's World Olympiad squad.

Only days after being named for the 60-nation event in Sammamish in August, Michelle Handley, Sandra Landy, Nicola Smith and Pat Davies flew to Pasadena to contest the North American spring championships. Their performance surpassed all other foreign competitors.

Handley and Landy even played as anchor pair to win the women's Swiss team with four Americans over the final weekend of the ten-day tournament. This carries the theoretical right to challenge for berths on the United States team.

Earlier, the four British women turned in a superb

performance in the Vanderbilt Cup, the sport's most historic trophy, reaching the round of 16 and eliminating the Ross team, captained by a world championship winner.

Handley and Landy rounded out their performance by winning a one-day pairs championship event.

The threecyearly North American nationals attracts thousands of strong performers, including professionals who receive large fees to take part. No foreign women have done as well as the British foursome, who were part of a record overseas entry.

Their effort has left American officials facing the need for revised seedings and new regulations to avoid the indignity of Europeans winning places on the United States team.

Handley described the trip as "a great workout for the Olympiad".

BASEBALL

Bell adds clout to Chicago's challenge

By ROBERT KIRLEY

located a shoulder and will be sidelined for two to six weeks.

The Chicago White Sox led by big Frank Thomas and the newcomers, George Bell and Steve Sax, are ready to be two consecutive second-place finishers in the American League West. Bell was acquired on Monday from the Chicago Cubs to replace Bo Jackson, who is unable to play while awaiting a hip replacement operation.

Teams, who have never won the division, could prosper if their pitching excels. They feature Nolan Ryan, aged 43, the career strikeout leader, but they have a ferocious offense, led by the batting champion, Julio Franco.

Cito Gaston, of Toronto, is

one of only five American League managers who hold the job they held one year ago.

Toronto, who have won more games than any other club over the past ten seasons, are favourites in the American League East. As well as Morris, who beat them twice in the play-offs, Toronto signed the venerable designated hitter, Dave Winfield, from California.

Boston, despite adding Frank Viola to a staff led by the incomparable Roger Clemens, still lack pitching depth, but their bunting order is excellent. Baltimore hope to thrive in a new stadium, Camden Yards, where President Bush will throw the ceremonial first ball of the year.

Cubs manager, Don Lue-

man, has signed Eric Davis to strengthen their superb outfield.

Huge salaries are beginning to pinch. One owner said that as many as half of the clubs could lose money this season. Three years ago, Kirby Puckett, of the Twins, became the first to earn \$3 million in a season. Ryne Sandberg, of the Cubs, a perennial All-Star, recently raised the standard by signing an extension that guarantees \$7.1 million a season for four years. One can only wonder what Babe Ruth would command in such a market.

1991 positions in brackets

AMERICAN LEAGUE: East: 1, To-

ronto (1); 2, Boston (equal 2); 3, Detroit (equal 2); 4, St. Louis (5); 5, Cleveland (4); 6, NY Yankees (5); 7, Cleveland (7); West: 1, Chicago White Sox (2); 2, Texas (3); 3, Minnesota (7); 4, Oakland (4); 5, California (7); 6, Kansas City (5); 7, Seattle (5).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: East: 1, Chi-

ago Cubs (equal 3); 2, NY Mets (5); 3,

Pittsburgh (1); 4, St. Louis (5); 5,

Philadelphia (equal 3); 6, Montreal (6); 7, Atlanta (7); 8, LA Dodgers (5); 9, Atlanta (1); 10, Cincinnati (5); 11, San Francisco (4); 12, San Diego (3); 13, Houston (6).

WORLD SERIES: Dodgers to beat White Sox in six games.

Liverpool deny bias in hunt for local talent

By PETER BARNARD

I mentioned a few weeks ago that television was sorely lacking programmes that covered aspects of sport other than the action. So three (well, two) cheers for the return of *Standing Room Only*, a worthy attempt by BBC 2 to plug precisely that gap.

The show, which goes out on Monday evenings, has the flavour of a television version of one of the better fanzines, *When Saturday Comes*, perhaps. And it has a rough-cut, comic-strip feel which is clearly designed to attract the young. Rightly so. Football, like the church, is dead if it simply grows old with the people within it.

But the programme is not all big issues, thanks to *Our Monday* we got an interview with George Best which was mostly unrevealing but at least provided an excuse to look at clips from his heyday. Best did make the point that from his first appearance for Manchester United, aged 17, nobody had ever told him how to play, a reference to over-coaching in the modern game.

There was also a bit of satirical fun at the expense of Crystal Palace's Geoff Thomas, focused on his spectacular missed goal for England against France. Looked like a pretty straightforward missick to me, but it was a decent excuse to suggest that Thomas's career was bound up in a conspiracy theory, a sort of Kennedy assassination relocated to England's muddy fields.

The theory was apparently launched when certain mysterious figures started putting about the proposition that Thomas was "quite good".

There was also glamour, in the shape (a word used advisedly) of the ratings-at-all-costs Italian television stations which now have their equivalents of *The Match* and *Match of the Day* introduced by under-dressed women who flicker their eyelashes if nothing else, at football stars. Naturally, these included Paul Gascoigne, who now seems to have done everything in Italy except play football.

Glamorous women introducing *Match of the Day*? Gracious me: are you watching, Jimmy Hill?

GYMNASI

Championships adopt individual approach

Paris: The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) is to try new ways of organising championships in an attempt to broaden the appeal of the sport.

Next month, gymnasts are bypassing the team stage here and going straight to their choice of apparatus.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund raiser and a jumbo and magnum of champagne respectively to the first three winners.

In Birmingham next year, they will largely revert to the traditional practice but without the compulsory exercises.

In 1994, the event will go back to the Paris format and, in 1995 and 1996, the championships will be held as usual with team qualifying followed by compulsory and optional individual exercises.

Arthur Magakian, one of the organisers of the championships in Paris, highlighted the advantage of allowing gymnasts to specialise.

"By the time they're 20, most gymnasts go to university and out to work," he said.

"They don't have time to train physically and mentally for 30 hours a week, so they leave the sport. It's a shame but this way, they could stay competitive in just one discipline."

The changes are to be rubber-stamped by the FIG congress in July. (AFP)

the Ivory Coast, can now compete in the world championships without having to put forward someone in each discipline," he said.

However, Leglise warned

that there were limits to the FIG's wish to experiment.

"We want to remain a sport and not become a spectacle like *Holiday on Ice*," he said.

Arthur Magakian, one of

the organisers of the championships in Paris, highlighted the advantage of allowing

gymnasts to specialise.

"By the time they're 20,

most gymnasts go to university and out to work," he said.

"They don't have time to train physically and mentally for 30 hours a week, so they leave the sport. It's a shame but this way, they could stay competitive in just one discipline."

The changes are to be rubber-stamped by the FIG congress in July. (AFP)

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League

Second division

Abertillery v St. Genn's Inst (7.0)

Rugby v Nunton

Club matches

Abertillery v St. Genn's Inst (7.0)

Rugby v Nunton

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Kent County v Herefordshire II (at Gravesend, 7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

First division: Hull KR v Wigton

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Carlisle National League, Men's Division: Kingston v Luton

SNOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co. Kildare)

RACE 0891
ALL COMMERCIALS
HAMILTON PK 101
WORCESTER BRITISH 102
GREYHOUNDS 102

Selection of table tennis representatives for the Olympic Games causes furore

South Africa torn by new discrimination



WHILE Primo Nebiolo has been persuading President F. W. de Klerk to help finance this month's Unity athletics meetings in Dakar and Pretoria, South African sport was yesterday being torn by an instance of reverse (anti-white) discrimination on selection of the table tennis representatives for the Olympic Games.

At the same time, representatives of the South African Olympic committee (Noosa) were grossly overreaching their prerogative by demanding political conditions from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for their team's participation in Barcelona. Even with the birth of national liberalisation, South African sport remains a witch's cauldron of conflicting interests.

With the assistance of the South African ambassador in Rome, Nebiolo has been assured by de

Klerk of \$2.5 million financial aid for the two-leg meeting, an essential preliminary to the affiliation of Athletics South Africa, the unified body, by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in May. That is necessary for participation of a South African athletics contingent at the Olympics.

From Rome, Nebiolo told *The Times*: "A few days ago I learned that there were difficulties in Africa over money for the Unity games. I contacted the Ambassador, explained our strategy and asked him to tell president de Klerk that we needed his help. On Monday, Lamine Diack, the president of African athletics, called me from Dakar to say he had been informed that money had been made available."

This was confirmed by sports minister Louis Pienaar at yesterday's meeting here between the

visiting IOC delegation and de Klerk. The Dakar meet will be small-scale, with 13 events, but Nebiolo said: "I am optimistic a good majority of Africans will be there."

The table tennis controversy epitomises the agony within South Africa's soul. Cheryl Roberts and Louis Botha have been selected by the unified Table Tennis SA. Botha is white, from the former SATT Union; Roberts is non-white, from the former SATU Board. There is an outcry in the white-orientated press that Surita Odendaal (white) has regularly beaten Roberts.

The fact is that Roberts also coaches hundreds of underprivileged children, and her participation in Barcelona will be of infinite

value, as a role model, to future development. Odendaal, understandably, is concerned with her own career, but has no comparable community involvement.

There will be a huge price to pay by many whites in the rebalancing of South African sport. Their cricketers were complaining yesterday about receiving less money than their World Cup foreign counterparts, but some of that World Cup money is going towards the united cricket board's development programme.

What coaching did Graeme Pollock ever do? Of course the table tennis selection is correct: Odendaal is unfortunately paying the price of her forebears' neglect.

Keha M'Baye, head of the IOC delegation, reflected at the final

press conference that South Africa's team should represent not only today's society but tomorrow's.

In de Klerk's discussion with the delegation, he reconfirmed last year's policy that the Olympic committee, Noosa, had to be self-determining, historically, he was addressing their non-white officials, Sam Ramsamy and Mhuleki George. There was no government move to prevent Noosa, de Klerk said, determining that its flag at the games should not be that which, for the moment, remains the national flag. It will be Noosa's interim design. Further, de Klerk promised some financial assistance, though he thought domestic debate with the government should take place at a subsequent meeting and not in front of the IOC, who were there only to explain their own regulations and to protect the sovereignty of Noosa.

in Barcelona. That is excessive. The IOC controls only Olympic territory, where Noosa's flag will reign; the IOC has no jurisdiction over the streets and buildings of the city, where local government has the right to fly the current flag of the South African state.

In the pursuit of democracy, Noosa's officials cannot deny the democratic process. Ramsamy, however, though he treads a knife-edge in his attempt to blend not only the emotions but the ambitions of black and white within this fraught nation, showed a diplomatic touch. He suggested that domestic debate with the government should take place at a subsequent meeting and not in front of the IOC, who were there only to explain their own regulations and to protect the sovereignty of Noosa.

Antipodean unions force issue on rugby league reinstatements

Australians flout amateur rule

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA, the World Cup holders, will press for a more open rugby fraternity when the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) meets this month in Wellington. The Queensland Rugby Union has already agreed that Greg Dowling, a former international rugby league prop who retired last year from the professional game, can play rugby union for GPS, the Brisbane club.

New Zealand, at their council's annual meeting last week, added substance to the argument by reinstating two players, Rob Penney (who promptly captained Canterbury against Auckland two days later) and Carlos Hassan, who have both taken part in rugby league trials during the last year.

At the time John Dowling (no relation), chairman of their amateur status subcommittee, said that individual unions should have discretion to decide whether individual cases should be penalised as heavily as the IRFB regulations demand.

Australia, the only country in the world where rugby league is stronger than rugby union, has for a long time turned a blind eye towards the involvement of former rugby league players in the union game. The argument is that they need all the resources they can get to counter the threat of the professional game, which has now also affected New Zealand, where telecasts of the Sydney rugby league competition are becoming increasingly popular.

Norbert Byrne, one of Australia's representatives on the IRFB, said that Dowling, who played first-grade rugby for the Brisbane Broncos, was admitted to play rugby union on the grounds that he had not previously played the game. "He is the highest-profile league player

we have ever accepted," Byrne said.

"But that is a totally different sport and why should it be discriminated against? We wouldn't have free access back and forth between the codes but someone who has never been admitted to rugby is being discriminated against. It's quite wrong for countries where the situation doesn't arise to try and discriminate against Australia."

Byrne admits that this will be a test case of amateur regulations which, as they are framed, do not permit a player to be reinstated until five years after he last received "material benefit" for playing – and then in an administrative rather than playing role. Certainly Dowling does not fall within that orbit and it may be that, by trying to force the issue, the Australians will not receive much sympathy, notably from the northern hemisphere.

In New Zealand last week, Wales was cited as being supportive of discretion where the reinstatement regulations were concerned, since their loss to rugby league over the last two years has been well chronicled. However Denis Evans, the Welsh Rugby Union secretary, insists that there should be a basic framework accepted by all countries. "We have supported the existing position more stringently than many," he said.

The general committee will meet shortly to examine whether the game should become totally open but the problem for the game at large is that if that were to happen, it could quickly find itself bankrupt."

□ Norman Bruce, the former Army and London Scottish hooker capped 31 times by Scotland between 1958 and 1964, has died, aged 59.

Obituary, page 17

Telemundi wants to be adviser for 1995 cup

TELEMUNDI, the sports marketing company, confirmed yesterday that it wished to be considered for the position of commercial adviser to the 1995 Rugby World Cup (David Hands writes). It will bid against, among others, the CPMG group, which held the position for the 1991 tournament in Britain, Ireland and France.

The company, based in Monaco, handled the licensing programmes for the last three football World Cups and is engaged in marketing the 1992 Expo in Seville, for which it has raised more than £600 million.

"In the interests of fair competition, the future growth of the Rugby World

Cup and its commercial success, we wish to put on record our willingness to be considered for the post," Wolfgang Stein, president of Telemundi, said. "It is essential, in the interests of the tournament, that the very best company be appointed to this position." Telemundi acted as the merchandising and licensing agent in 1991.

It is expected that the venue for the 1995 tournament will be confirmed when the International Rugby Football Board holds its annual meeting later this month in Wellington. Delegates may also expect to hear details of the income raised for rugby during the 1991 tournament and how it is proposed that money should be spent.

THE Welsh Rugby Union has refused to bow to pressure from the Association of Senior Clubs (ASC) over its decision to play both Schweppes Cup semi-finals on the same afternoon at Cardiff Arms Park and has forced a deadline between the groups (a Special Correspondent writes).

Twice in the past two seasons the ASC has backed down, over television rights

and Sunday semi-finals, and the WRU is confident of winning the day again.

"Like spring flowers, they come out with something like this every year. They will contrive something if they haven't got something worthy of debate," Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said. "This is a clear threat to the authority of the Union."

The ASC, which represents the top 20 teams in the

Gloucester, who play Bath at Kingsholm in the other semi-final, will also decide their team tomorrow. Their casualties include John Hawker (hooker), Tim Smith (full back), David Sims (lock), Bob Phillips (prop) and Neil Matthews (stand-off).

However, Paul Ashmead,

the flanker, will be fit to play. Moreover, Gloucester have been encouraged to see Mike Teague training once more.

□ Mark Jones, of Neath, has been fined £400 for an attack

during a drinking session. He was also ordered by magistrates at Bridgend to pay £200 compensation to Mark Williams, aged 22, who he pulled down and kicked twice in Fonthill on Boxing day.

□ The court appearance of Gary Rees, the Nottingham

flanker charged with previous

bodily harm on Stefan Mary, of London Irish, did not go ahead at Staines Magistrates' Court yesterday. A committal hearing will be held at the court on April 28.

Evans denied the suggestions. "The Schweppes Cup is a WRU competition and the Competitions Committee has absolute power to make decisions," he said.

Heineken League and wants

the games played at separate

venues, has claimed that the

Union contravened its own

constitution by making the

semi-final a double header on

May 4, a bank holiday.

Evans denied the suggestions.

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Points lift the spirits of the bottom club

Doncaster recover from League's pathetic decision

Doncaster Rovers 1
Barnet 0

TABLE

By KENNI PINE

IT IS an ill wind that blows nobody any good, but at Belle Vue they are still waiting for the faintest whiff of good fortune after the demise of Aldershot Football Club last week.

Before then, at least, Doncaster Rovers could look down to the one club below them in the League and take some small comfort from the fact that someone, somewhere, was worse off than them both in terms of ability and assets. Not any more.

And the fact that, half an hour before the start of yesterday's game with Barnet, all the programmes had been sold should not be taken as even the smallest sign of a revival in Yorkshire. Supporters buying a dozen at a time freely admitted they were after memorabilia from what they felt could be one of Doncaster's last games. Sadly, they could be right.

The threat of relegation to the GM Vauxhall Conference may not be there this year, but when a side has won only five League games all season, the loss of four points and that one all-important place above the fourth division basement once Aldershot's record had been expunged, was a mortal blow, the Doncaster manager, Steve Beaglehole, admitted.

But it was to get worse: a couple of days later Rovers were forced to accept Mansfield Town's offer of £25,000 for their leading goal-scorer and best player, Kevin Noteman. "It was sell or go under," Beaglehole said.

Three other players, including the regular first-team goalkeeper, were also allowed

Clough will carry on until 1994

BRIAN Clough, who was 57 last month, yesterday banished all talk of retirement by requesting an extension to his contract as manager of Nottingham Forest (Chris Moore writes).

Not surprisingly, the Football League's longest-serving manager was immediately given an additional 12-month agreement, which will run from the finish of his existing contract at the end of next season to the conclusion of the 1993-4 campaign.

The deal was struck a few hours after Fred Reacher had taken over as chairman from Maurice Roworth, who has resigned.

"It's my first day as chairman and I have come out of my first meeting with the manager with a great boost for myself and the club," Reacher said.

"I have always regarded Brian as the best manager in the business. That's why the last 17 years have been the most successful in the club's history."

TABLE

By KENNI PINE

Annes, all the time shedding tears over Aldershot, said no.

Apparently, it would not have been fair to Barnet's promotion rivals for Doncaster to have to stage a "home" game at a neutral venue.

And so yesterday, kicking off at 2pm and watched by a crowd consisting largely of pensioners, unemployed and pre-school age children, Doncaster won 1-0, clinging on to Mike Jeffrey's 37th-minute goal like shipwrecked sailors to a life raft.

Victory narrowed the gap on Carlisle United to six points and cost Doncaster, in the estimation of their chairman, Jim Burke, more than £3,000, the difference between what an average gate of 2,000-plus would have brought in and the amount generated by yesterday's crowd of 1,247, just 84 above the club's lowest-ever for a League game.

The points were welcome, Beaglehole and Burke agreed. The money was much more important, maybe even the difference between survival and extinction. "We were devastated by the FA's decision," Beaglehole said. "It was astonishing ... a pathetic decision made by pathetic little men in a little room."

Next season, if they are still in business, Doncaster will have cut their playing staff to 16 full-time professionals, halved their wage bill, abandoned their reserve side, and sold their pitch by the square yard to raise money. It will be a modest existence to say the least, but an existence which the Football League can take no credit in prolonging.

DOCASTER REPORTS: P. Crichton; C. Douglas (sub: A. Croft); S. Pindiville; J. Ashton; B. Oramby; E. Gormley; G. Warboys (sub: P. Rowes); B. Rose; M. McInerney; M. Naylor; D. Howlett; D. Horton; R. Willis (sub: G. Hulme); D. P. Murphy; G. Butt; D. Payne; P. Shovell.

Referee: K. Cooper

Lazio take another look at Gascoigne

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE TOTTENHAM

Shrews, made light yesterday of a visit to London by Lazio officials, for another look at Paul Gascoigne, who is scheduled to join them in the summer for £5.5 million.

The move is subject to Gascoigne passing a fitness test on his damaged knee by May 31.

Recent reports have suggested that the Italians are wary about his chances but Shrews said: "They are coming over purely to keep an eye on him — nothing more than that. There are no tests planned."

Smith had not announced the decision, but a letter in a local newspaper from an unnamed Portsmouth player revealed the news and hit out at the decision. The player, who did not identify himself, said: "It's a great club and they rarely get it wrong, but we feel in this case they have proved them wrong and come back and haunt us like many professionals have done throughout the Football League."

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1992

MARC ASPLAND

PFA looks to have large strike mandate

Taylor's meeting with officials shapes as crucial

BY PETER BALL

THE Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) will make another attempt to resolve its dispute with the Premier League over the players' share of the television contract at a meeting in Manchester this afternoon, when Gordon Taylor, the PFA chief executive, is expected to meet Premier League officials.

There is much riding on the outcome. Although the strike ballot does not close until Friday, it is already virtually complete, with early reports suggesting an overwhelming majority for strike action if it becomes necessary.

In consequence, there was a sizeable amount of sabre rattling, and scare-mongering from the clubs yesterday. Peter Swales, the Manchester City chairman, returned to the fray to suggest that the clubs would end the season immediately if, as expected, the players' select televised matches for action, starting

with the Rumbelows Cup final between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest on May 12.

The Football League also entered the debate. Trevor Phillips, the commercial director, suggesting that the League's showpiece game was not the ideal target for the players to pick. "It could affect our relationship with our sponsors, and the income to be distributed to clubs right through the League," Phillips said. "This is also the one game in which the two clubs involved do not get a facility fee, so if television fees are at the base of the argument, it seems the PFA would be hitting the wrong target."

League officials insisted, however, that the season will be finished, even if it means playing on beyond the closing date. "The season will be completed, because relegation and promotion issues have to be finalised. Europe qualification is still to be

resolved, and every club has an obligation to its supporters," Andy Williamson, the assistant secretary of the Football League, said.

Williamson was equally dismissive of a reported threat that ITV would sue the Football League if the Rumbelows Cup final did not go ahead, pointing out that it was out of the League's hands, and so legally they could not be held responsible. "If the players do boycott the game a week on Sunday, we would have to find an alternative date," Williamson said. "It would happen some time so ITV would have no case anyway — they're not tied to a specific date."

The season will be completed and the Rumbelows Cup final will be played. I can't understand suggestions that the FA Cup final will be held over."

In previous seasons, it has not been uncommon for games to be played after the official closing date. After the Hillsborough disaster, the League championship was not decided until two weeks after the end of the season, and there is no reason to suppose that that could not happen this time.

The only drawback, a serious one given that one of the original objects of the Premier League was to help the England team, is that a late end to the season will cut into Graham Taylor's preparations for the European championship in Sweden. That, however, places the ball firmly in the Football Association's court.

"The FA should impose their authority on the Premier League and get this matter resolved," Williamson said.

Portuguese offer to Robson

BOBBY Robson is expected in Lisbon next week for talks with Sporting Lisbon which could lead to him taking over the Portuguese side this summer (Louise Taylor writes).

The former England manager, who led his country to the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup, is in charge at PSV Eindhoven but will leave The Netherlands when his two-year contract expires in June.

Luis Sousa Cintra, the president of Sporting Lisbon, yesterday claimed to have reached an agreement with Robson to take charge for the next two seasons. The last time Sporting won the championship was in 1982, under the management of another Englishman, Malcolm Allison.

Speaking on Lisbon Radio yesterday, Sousa Cintra said: "There are still some details to be sorted out but, in principle, Robson will be Sporting's coach and will be here for talks with us next week."

Sporting are one of Portugal's three leading clubs, along with Benfica and FC Porto. They dismissed Martinho Pires, their Brazilian coach, earlier this month after some indifferent results.

BBC and BSkyB top ITV offer

BY PETER BALL

ITV yesterday began to mount its counterattack after hearing that its offer for coverage of the Premier League next season had been surpassed by a joint BBC and BSkyB offer.

Both BBC and the satellite channel were refusing to reveal details of their bid yesterday, but it is believed to be a sizeable increase on the ITV offer, which, with a contribution from Screensport and promotional and advertising packages, took the basic offer of £18 million a year for four years to something approaching £22 million a year.

The BSkyB and BBC deal is said to exceed that enough for Sky executives to be fairly confident yesterday. It is still less than the proposal by Total Communications for a £50 million a year contract for ten years for a football channel on satellite but that is not regarded as a serious con-

tender this time round.

A combination of BBC and BSkyB is serious. If the Premier League does buy the package, which is far from decided, the BBC involvement will be the key.

It is a big blow to ITV, whose bid was simply for exclusive live coverage of 30 games a season, which would have allowed the BBC to revive the recorded highlights programme *Match of the Day* on a Saturday night. The BSkyB bid takes more matches, giving BBC some live games, a vital component which answers the doubts of the big clubs, and their sponsors, about committing themselves to a satellite channel with, immediately, small audiences. Involving BBC also answers any political pressures which might otherwise have surfaced as they did over BSkyB's exclusive contract for the World Cup cricket.

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Rivers to cross: Bedford, right, the London marathon official, and Richter, a hostage turned runner, at Tower Bridge yesterday

Runners braced for London ordeal

BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

AS JENNY Wood Allen, from Dundee, an 80-year-old competitor in the coming ADT London Marathon, puts it: "The hardest step is that first one over your doorstep." The motivation that propels the runner's first step out training, regardless of the weather and often against the body's wishes, was brought vividly into focus in London yesterday.

The only drawback, a serious one given that one of the original objects of the Premier League was to help the England team, is that a late end to the season will cut into Graham Taylor's preparations for the European championship in Sweden. That, however, places the ball firmly in the Football Association's court.

"The FA should impose their authority on the Premier League and get this matter resolved," Williamson said.

ing, no solids. But, thank God, none of that has come about."

He watched the London marathon on television and it was a challenge, even though he "nearly died" on his first training attempt over 300 yards. He persevered and has to date raised £11,000 for St James's Hospital in Leeds. "I've been given my life back," he said. "I'll repay the debt."

Nine months ago, Keith Cooper, aged 23, had a kidney transplant at Guy's hospital, London. His mother, Ann, was the donor. After three months, he started running and so impressed his surgeon, Geoff Koffman, that the pair will run the marathon together for the hospital. "If he doesn't finish, I'll be able to take his

kidney out and give it to somebody else," Koffman joked.

The cloud-base on April 12 permitting, a 16-strong freefall parachuting team from the London Fire Brigade will drop on to Blackheath, hand the starting flag to Terry White and then run the race alongside Moira Pim, an air crash victim. Two years ago, she suffered severe burns covering 30 per cent of her body, including her face, but, thanks to plastic surgeons, her looks have been restored. "They gave me a life worth living," Pim said. RAFT, a charity supporting reconstructive surgery, will benefit from their efforts.

You need motivation when given a life sentence, which was Ian Richter's fate in Iraq five years ago when accused of illegal payments. Thanks to the persistence of the British Red Cross in publicising his case, he was able to get out running more often. "My jailers first let me out twice a week, then three to four days, then six days," he said. "As my political status increased, so did my exercise periods. I simply don't know what I would have done without my running."

Morning roadwork is a burden for many boxers but not for Adrian Dodson, a welterweight tipped for the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. He does stints of between five and ten miles over Parliament Hill Fields. Dodson, who last week won the Olympic qualifying series at his weight in Milan, when he triumphed in all his

four contests, has run the New York marathon twice and, in London last year, clocked 3hr 10min. He is collecting for ITV's Helpquad.

Next year, David Bedford, the former world 10,000 metres record holder, will be taking over as London's international race director, which will curb his running opportunities. "This looks like my last chance," he said. Bedford ran the initial race in 1981 in response to a nightclub bet made at 1am on race day morning. "The last three miles took 45 minutes," he recalled. He has not raced since. Bedford's target on April 12 will be to raise £250,000 for Community Action Trust (CAT), the charity behind Crimestoppers.

Officer's goal, page 26

Savicevic a doubt for Red Star

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RED Star Belgrade, the European Cup holders, fear that their captain and playmaker, Dejan Savicevic, will miss tonight's potentially decisive European Cup group A game against Sampdoria.

The Yugoslav side lead the Italians by one point with two games remaining in the pool and a draw could be enough to secure them a berth in the Wembley final on May 20.

Savicevic went off early in last week's international between Yugoslavia and the Netherlands with an arm injury which also kept him out of Saturday's league game against Rad. He had a full training session on Sunday but club officials said he was still doubtful for the vital tie against Sampdoria in Sofia.

Sofia police, renowned for their no-nonsense attitude towards football crowds, are preparing for several thousand supporters intending to force their way into the 30,000-capacity Sofia Army stadium, which is already sold out with 18,000 Yugoslavs, 8,000 Italians and 4,000 Bulgarians in possession of tickets.

"But we expect another 10,000 Red Star fans and thousands of Bulgarians to try and storm the stadium," a senior officer said. "Riot and mounted police as well as dogs will be used. We will detain drunk fans at the border and carefully check all those entering the stadium."

A draw in Prag against Sparta will be enough for Red Star to qualify for the final from group B and the Spanish champions are determined to do it in style and go for a win.

"We have to go for the win so there can be no doubts," their Dutch full back Ronald Koeman, said. "If you set out for a draw you usually lose."

Barcelona, in impressive form in European competition, will be without their suspended Bulgarian forward, Kristo Stoichkov.

Benfica, with only an outside chance of overhauling Barcelona, will still be without their forward, Rui Aguias, against Dynamo Kiev in Lisbon and possibly the midfield player, Vitor Paneira, injured at the weekend.

Aguas, whose back pass in the first match against Dynamo gave the Ukrainian team their winning goal, has not recovered from the serious leg injury he suffered in that match.

Anderlecht, three points behind Red Star, prepared for their tie against Panathinaikos in Athens with a 7-3 league win over Waregem, but Dutch striker Johnny Bosman, who scored three goals, is suspended. The Ghanaian, Nii Lamprey, injured his ankle during training and is doubtful as is the veteran defender, Michel De Wolf, who is struggling to recover from influenza.

Rafael Martin Vazquez

could be Torino's key player in their Uefa Cup semi-final first leg away to his old club, Real Madrid, according to the Italian club's coach, Emilio Mondonico.

Mondonico expressed the hope that Vazquez would recover from injury in time to play. "He may well prove to be the decisive player, for them as much as for us, depending on how much he wants to prove to them and how much his former team mates want to get their own back because of his departure for Italy."

Real Madrid, already be missing their Mexican forward, Hugo Sanchez, with a leg strain, may also be without Emilio Butragueno in attack if he fails a fitness test. (Reuter)

Koeman: out to win

Van Zyl to tour W Indies

Cape Town: Brian McMillan, who played a prominent role in South Africa's World Cup cricket campaign, will miss his country's tour of the West Indies, which starts on Friday, a cricket official said here yesterday.

Peter van der Merwe, the selection committee convenor, said yesterday that Corrie van Zyl, the Orange Free State all-rounder, would replace McMillan, who has a swollen Achilles tendon. The decision was made after McMillan had his ankle scanned in Cape Town yesterday.

South Africa, who reached the semi-finals of the World Cup, will play a five-day Test match — their first official Test since 1970 because of their isolation over apartheid — and three limited-overs internationals during their three-week stay in the Caribbean.

Van Zyl, who has played for Glamorgan, will be the only member of the team being sent to the Caribbean who was not in South Africa's party for the World Cup in Australasia. (Reuter)

West Indies on top, page 29

Oxford show starting speed

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

RUPERT Obholzer, last year's president and stroke, made a surprise appearance in the Oxford crew yesterday afternoon in place of Hamish Hume, who has a stomach upset and was rested after an unscheduled light morning outing. Hamish was a quiet and Rupert was available," Steve Royle, Oxford's rowing director, said.

Both Oxford and Cambridge concentrated on stakeboat starts in their main outings yesterday. Comparisons were difficult as conditions for Cambridge, rowing on the flow in the morning, were much calmer than for Oxford, who faced a head wind and waves on the ebb.

Oxford confined themselves to three 25 strokes. The first one was uninspired, the crew failing to cover, rating 41, until ten strokes. The second, into the same cross head wind, was a different matter.

cover arriving after five strokes at 42 and maintained at three feet as the rate came down to 38. The third was marginally slower.

On yesterday's showing, Oxford could match Cambridge for starting speed in Saturday's Boat Race.

The task of manning the stake boats preventing some 130 stone being wrangled from their grasp — will go on Saturday to Bob Hastings, aged 28, in the Middlesex boat with his brother Geoffrey, and Tom Goodwin, aged 69, in the Surrey boat with his son Kevin. Goodwin has officiated since the mid-1970s.

Today's outcome: Cambridge 9.00am and 4.00pm, Oxford 9.30am and 4.00pm (National equal old Oxford blues)

Juries change sail ruling

FROM BOB ROSS IN SAN DIEGO

THE international juries for the America's Cup challenger and defender elimination series have agreed on a new rule to grant redress to a yacht which runs into a sail jettisoned by another.

This follows the patently unfair situation the Swedish team encountered in their match with the Spanish during the round-robin stages of the challenger series.

Espana 92, skippered by Pedro Campos, of Spain, cut free a gennaker which fell overboard as it was being lowered for a mark rounding. Tre Kronor (Gunnar Krantz, Sweden), following closely, ran into the sail and lost four-and-a-half minutes untangling it from her keel.

While the international jury

for this series sympathised with the Swedes, they could do nothing under the International Yacht Racing Union racing rules to either order a recall or award the race to Tre Kronor.

The new rule, written into the conditions covering both the America's Cup and the remaining stages of the challenger and defender series, permits the on-course umpires to ask the appropriate international jury to consider redress when they are "satisfied that a yacht's finishing position may have been materially prejudiced through no fault of her own by being obstructed by another yacht's equipment not in a normal position".

The international jury for

the challenger eliminations has gone one step further with another rule added to its event conditions: "A yacht shall not jettison any sail unless the sail is unintentionally out of control and

Architecture: Marcus Binney reports from Japan on some daring and spectacular new buildings

Beautiful visions have a price

Architectural masterpieces are now appearing in Japan by the dozen each year: adventurous in design, imaginative in detail and exquisite in finish. Japan is the richer for recruiting outstanding talent from abroad, from Britain, France, Italy and Switzerland. All this is in utter contrast to the glass boxes and concrete slabs of the previous quarter century, which were as anonymous and depressing as anywhere in the world.

Yet Japan's amazing building boom has been achieved at hideous cost to the natural environment, gobbling up rainforests at a scarcely believable rate. That is a point which Japanese construction companies, keen to promote a greener image, are seeking urgently to address.

For sheer grandeur, the best place to begin an assessment of modern Japanese architecture is Tokyo's new Metropolitan City Hall, the Notre Dame of the skyscraper world. The exterior, designed by Kenzo Tange, is set back in stages, in the manner of New York's Rockefeller Centre, but towards the top the twin towers are rotated 45 degrees, revealing cylindrical cores and creating the effect of giant belfries.

It is built by what the Japanese call the "superstructure" construction method. Instead of the usual grid of steel, rising floor by floor, there are a few gigantic pillars, grouped in fours at each corner, and "superbeams" every ten floors: so huge they fill a storey.

As a result, vast clear spans can be created within. The main public concourse runs the width of the building and is seven storeys high, if the open basement is included. There is a generosity with public space rarely seen since the great railway terminals. Take the express lift to either of the public observation towers and you are once again in a vast space, surrounded by a soaring dome. By contrast, the granite-clad exterior is so intricate, like Japanese basket-weave, that it is hard to tell one storey from another.

Next stop is Sir Norman Foster's Century Tower, built for a Japanese publisher, who is so pleased he has commissioned two further buildings from Foster. The design is a joint venture between Foster and the Japanese construction company Obayashi, which has nearly 1,000 architects on its staff and some 3,000 engineers. The best way to enter the building is via the car park. Emerging from the lift you gain the full effect of Foster's engineering conjuring trick, a

high-rise building without the traditional core, a glass cathedral where you can look out of the building in any direction: above, in front or to the sides.

The quality of light and sense of space is breathtaking. In engineering terms the achievement was to meet the ultra-stringent Japanese building regulations (stringent because of the danger of earthquakes) in a building with a full-height central atrium, overlooked by office floors with open balconies. Foster's solution is characteristically high-tech: a single, barely visible, toughened glass firescreen laid horizontally across the atrium and a pressurised air system, which prevents it from becoming a chimney and blows the smoke out of each floor of offices in an emergency.

Foster's *leitmotiv* is a series of giant K braces laid sideways, stacked one above the other. As the arms taper, they have a distinctly Oriental look, suggestive of the entrance to a Japanese shrine.

Foster's interior is characteristically monochrome: pearl grey, dove grey, elephant grey, pewter and charcoal. Two huge water tables in black Zimbabwean marble, as smooth as mirrors, provide wonderful reflections, although incautious visitors regularly dunk their briefcases in the water. On either side the water flows in a perfect curtain over textured black walls which turn white with the reflections of the sky above.

To ring the changes, go next to Tokyo's new Port Terminal, designed by Minoru Takeyama, living proof that Post-Modernism, with its brilliant play on colour and geometric shapes, is alive and flourishing, for all the repeated pronouncements of its "death" in Britain.

Once again, the lobby is grey set off by flashes of scarlet. Externally the entire building is conceived as a staircase, with steps laid in a chessboard pattern of grey and black stone. Inside, the pyramid is an airy new restaurant with tables stepped down in terraces so everyone has a view of the harbour.

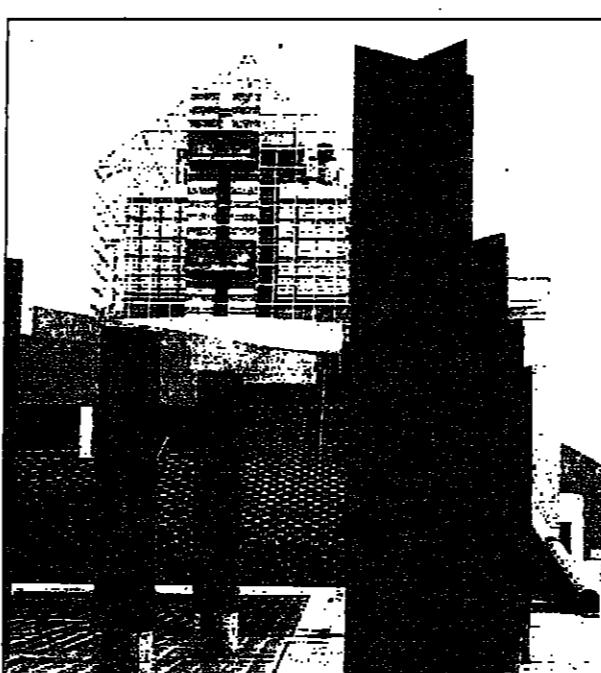
The ultimate in Post-Modernism is the Yamato International building, with a silhouette that resembles a series of puffed clouds. It is a composition like a series of stage scenes, set one in front of the other. The building, a huge clothing warehouse, is designed to be seen from one point of view, where the clouds step up in a series of alternating



The Notre Dame of the skyscraper world? The central towers of Tokyo's new Metropolitan City Hall, by Kenzo Tange, resemble belfries

ing curves. Silver cladding, combined with frosted glass, give it a surreal quality.

Some of Tokyo's smartest new buildings are multi-level blocks of fashion shops. The Tokyo Design Centre, by Mario Bellini, is a variant of Michael Graves' Post-Modernism, all pastel colours and square windows. What gives it



Tokyo's Port Terminal, designed by Minoru Takeyama, is proof that Post-Modernism is alive and flourishing

with fantastic tropical luxuriance, but at the Life Inn not a living fern or leaf is to be seen, only hard rock and painted concrete.

Japanese architects work miracles with concrete surfaces. My favourite is Fumihiko Maki's municipal gymnasium in Tokyo. The low, tapering cylindrical walls give it the shape of a giant salad bowl. What animates it and changes it into a giant manna ray is the layered silver roof. The illusion is helped by the narrow bands of windows beneath the lip of the roof, like so many bare teeth.

By contrast to the rough British variety, Japanese concrete is as smooth as lacquer. Yet this smoothness has a terrible price. In Japan concrete is set in wooden panels or frames, made from South Pacific rainforest trees. In Japan, 20 percent of imported wood goes to make these frames for concrete. They are dumped after being used at most three times.

According to an article in the Japanese magazine *Industria*, the Philippines have recently banned the export of wood to Japan, and the Japanese are now dependent on the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak for supplies. But these, say *Industria*, can only provide lumber for another ten years, before they are denuded.

Part of the problem is that the ultra smooth finish is achieved by using plywood, which is chosen to frame the concrete because it is lighter and quicker to cut than metal. Now the Japanese contractors Obayashi are looking at ways of reducing the waste of natural resources. Specialty coated panels could be reused up to ten times. Or South Pacific wood could be used only for the outer layers of the frame "sandwich", with coniferous wood in between.

Intense effort is now being put into designing energy-saving buildings. If the same concern could be put into saving energy in the construction process, Japan would be rendering a service to the whole world.

PERHAPS now we can be sure that South Africa is changing. From today the Musicians' Union in Britain is ending its ban on members working in South Africa — a boycott which has been in force since the mid-Fifties, and which was continued last year despite the general lifting of sporting and cultural boycotts elsewhere. However, the MU still advises its members sternly that "purely commercial engagements" in South Africa "will be discouraged". British musicians are expected to do some educational or fund-raising work for black communities when in South Africa.

Second chances

HOW good were the flops of the great Broadway tunesmiths? The Barbican may provide a partial answer when, each Sunday afternoon this summer, semi-staged performances of neglected musicals will be given on the stage of Cinema 1. Rodgers and Hart's last collaboration, *By Jupiter*, opens the season (Sundays in May, followed in June by Arthur Schwartz/Dorothy Fields show *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Cole Porter's *Jubilee* will be performed in July, with *One Touch of Venus* — the collaboration between Kurt Weill and Ogden Nash — in August. Each musical will be performed uncut, to piano accompaniment.

Cash afoot

BRITAIN's independent dancemakers have received a huge boost from the Arts Council: the 1992-93 allocation for independent dance projects has been increased by 92 per cent to £729,114 in 1992-93. Among the main beneficiaries are Arc Dance Company, with £35,000 to tour a new production based on the story of Bluebeard; Laurie Booth, with £34,000 for new work collaborating with sculptor Anish Kapoor; and Vidusaka-Kalika, a festival of contemporary South Asian Dance, which gets £40,000 for events in London, Liverpool and Leicester.

Last chance . . .

PAINES Plough's atmospheric, bilingual production of *Down and Out in Paris and London*, which wrings memorable theatrical images out of Orwell's wry sociological commentary, leaves the Riverside Studios (081-748 3354) on Saturday. Anna Purse will presumably have recruited non-professionals for her crowd scenes in Glasgow, where the show continues, before proceeding appropriately to Paris.

THEATRE: PREVIEW

Making sure Eliza is a good girl

How do you produce the fractured vowels of *Pygmalion*? Heather Neill goes to the Royal National Theatre for guidance



Coach parked: Joan Washington in the Royal National Theatre's Olivier auditorium

Frances Barber reckons that she has had to learn three accents to play Eliza Doolittle in the new National Theatre *Pygmalion*. There is the flower-seller's Cockney; then the uneasy, carefully articulated transition to drawing room acceptability; and finally natural-sounding "received pronunciation", or RP. Meanwhile, on other evenings she slips into a Texan drawl and becomes Maxine in Tennessee Williams's *The Night of the Iguana*.

When she feels secure with an accent she can "put it in a box to be opened with the dressing room key". Such confidence, Barber says, she could not have managed without Joan Washington.

Washington, the National's accent coach, has been the power behind the speech in numerous productions, including *A View from the Bridge* and the current *Angels in America*. She is a trained phonetician and could have held her own with *Pygmalion*'s Professor Higgins himself; while he boasts of being able to distinguish 130 vowel sounds, she can manage 124.

Like Higgins, too, she can tell one London accent from another: "The South tends to be more nasal, more sibilant than the North and East." While Washington is quite *au fait* with the jargon of phonetics ("more friction in the plosives") and knows her Sweet and Daniel Jones, the phoneticians on whom Shaw based Higgins, she seems

happier with a more descriptive language of her own.

"Americans tend to be more front-footed in their speech, following through to the end of the sentence. The English are generally backfooted, more apologetic; they 'pitch twiddle' to show they've stopped, while Americans invade space with voice as well as body." But however helpful the generalisations, voice cannot be separated from charac-

ter. "If the accent is right, the movement will be, too." Washington likes to be involved from the beginning of rehearsals, and would not graft accent on when the rest of the work has been done: what she describes as "barding jobs". Her tape library is expanding constantly. For *Pygmalion*, it was a case of finding and recording the oldest speakers available. The Cockney current before 1914

is rarely heard now, and RP has gone through various fashions too. Both, says Washington, have become more nasal. Cockney was more dynamic, with people "offering" ends of phrases. "Offering" suggests an invitation to another speaker.

An actor acquiring an accent goes through much the same process as Eliza does. First, find the point of tension, which may be in the jaw (as in

the "if" and the "it" mispronounced "I" will have presented most problems).

Washington and Barber admire Eliza's spirit. She remains essentially unchanged by her transformation. Washington: "Eliza learns not only to assimilate RP but to use it to project Eliza. She is a clear match for Higgins." For Barber, Shaw gives the actress everything she needs to build the character. "How somebody speaks tells you how a character should be played. Eliza is a prototype feminist, learning as she goes. It's there in the writing: you unpick the stiches at your peril."

• *Pygmalion* is in preview from Friday, opening April 9 at the Olivier, Royal National Theatre (071-928 2228)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hallo, hallo, what's all this?

If Mori ever polled such a thing, it would likely discover that the making of successful television detective fiction needs oddball characters in the main role and a strong sense of location.

Bergerac and *Jersey, Cumbrae and Los Angeles* are examples of television longevity achieved on a diet of quirkiness and geographic flavour underpinned by high-fibre writing.

If this is so, the novels of John Harvey are promising ground for adaptation. His detective-inspector, Charlie Resnick, fond of jazz and exotic sandwiches, carrying some moral baggage not always glimpsed in portrayals of policemen (or indeed in policemen, full stop), carries hope of a substantial television experience beyond reliance on mere plot.

So Resnick came to BBC 1 last night with some chance of being a winner, albeit shod down the peak time tunnel by the election coverage. Resnick is a modest number in terms of length, one story in three episodes, but with a hint that

Resnick may return for greater exposure later, I hope so.

The setting is Nottinghamshire, no mean literary county (Lawrence, Sillitoe), although as with the Bristol setting of *Casualty*, the relevance of the environment is more to do with tone and accent than geography.

Resnick is a copper with a conscience, involved with a seamy child abuse case and a squall murder; the two running in parallel and woven together via a social worker to whom Resnick takes a shine.

Perhaps "shine" is too frivolous a word to apply to a lugubrious character with hooded eyes which carry more questions than answers.

The title role is beautifully underplayed by Tom Wilkinson. If real life strayed into the portrayal, Wilkinson could afford to be less gloomy. He has lately graced two serials, the excellent *Underbelly* and the superb *Prime Suspect*. This third Wilkinson excursion does not have the brutal edge of either of the others and the photography is alarmingly ob-

scured with rapid cutting between one close-up and the next: now a face, now a row of paint tins in a shop, next another face, now a suspect urinating down a policeman's leg. This editing has become a television fashion accessory, which some will find enhances the body of the work, but which I think diverts attention from it.

The first episode was a neat wind-up for the two to come and clearly something in Resnick's past is about to be brought out of the woodwork by several things in his present. For all the swiftness of the editing, this is slow-burn drama in which careful characterisation sets down the markers for plot development. Wilkinson's thoughtful Charlie Resnick will undoubtedly attract comparisons with Inspector Morse, though the latter would not be caught dead listening to jazz. If he was, rely on Resnick to worry out the cause of death, with just as much style.

PETER BARNARD

REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM THIS SATURDAY 8.00PM
THE POPE AND THE WITCH
"DARIO FO'S BEST FARCE YET"
COMEDY THEATRE SW1

Berth Hall Saturday 4 April 6.30 pm
CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA
BACH ST MATTHEW PASSION
RICHARD HICKOX conductor
CATHERINE PIERARD • MICHAEL CHANCE
MARK TUCKER • STEPHEN VARIOUS
ANDREW KING Evangelist STEPHEN ROBERTS Christus
TALLIS CHAMBER CHOIR

1st Class Musical
Oscar Hammerstein II's
CARMEN JONES
Music by Georges Bizet
and 7 major Olivier Award nominations
THE OLD VIC
071 928 7616

Heading towards a retreat

Valerie Grove finds out why Averil Burgess is quitting as headmistress of South Hampstead High School for Girls

The headmistress has had enough. Never mind that her school is in the top ten of the league table, and sends girls sailing into Oxford and Cambridge. Averil Burgess, head of South Hampstead High School for Girls for the past 18 years, announced to the parents last week that she is giving up the daily tyranny of school life, at only 53.

"I've spent a third of my life in this job and I'm clapped out," is how she put it to one enquirer, though she looks far from "clapped out", cutting a chic, energetic and in-command figure.

But to be at her desk at 7.45 every morning, crisp and coiffed, requires untiring effort, and Mrs Burgess — a Miss Brodie to her *crème de la crème* — has come to one of those 1990s life-choices.

Having achieved the pinnacle of her profession, she realises that all she really wants is freedom and time.

Friends who have taken early retirement are a corrupting influence: they seem to lead such charmed lives. So she stepped up the mortgage payments, and her little Georgian house in Highgate village is almost paid for.

She has 33 years' unbroken pension payments behind her. "So I can now afford to go," she says, "while people still say, 'How frightful' and not 'Goodness, she's been there a long time.'"

The South Hampstead girl has not changed much. The school which produced Fay Weldon, Julia Neuberger, Helena Bonham Carter (and before that Glynis Johns, Angela Lansbury, Gwen Frangon-Davies) still encourages confidence.

I was there the other day for a careers forum and can report that they are typical contemporary young women who flick their hair from side to side and *fling* a cool, challenging gaze upon the world.

"On my second day here," Mrs Burgess says, "we had our prize giving. The next day I had a very irate Susannah Tomalin, daughter of Claire, in my office saying, 'I want to make a complaint' and it was about the singing of 'Let us now praise famous men'. We had a fascinating conversation about the self-image of women, and feminist language.

"And the headgirl then was a splendid young woman, Ruth Mackenzie, now director of Nottingham Playhouse. Our girls have always been concerned about issues, and prepared to stand up for their right to speak. We do a lot of debating, and still encourage that old-fashioned skill, public speaking."

But girls' grammar schools always did so, and produce women of the Margaret Hilda Roberts type: the difference is that previous generations were more inclined to chuck in their opportunities for domestic life, unheard-of in girls' sixth forms today.

South Hampstead came sixth in last year's school league tables of A-level results, as well it might: the school is rigorously selective, and situated in a highly motivated catchment area. Mrs Burgess

thinks that league tables are no more than "a tiny snapshot" of a school, but she is none the less pleased that they dispense the notion that the ancient and famous public schools are best: "The highest-achieving schools are in fact the urban grammar schools."

South Hampstead is part of the Girls' Public Day School Trust (GPDS), founded by four philanthropic Victorian ladies. The schools used to be direct-grant but are now independent, and they are for many reluctantly fee-paying parents the nearest thing to a grammar school. Up to 18 per cent of the girls are on the assisted placement scheme or on bursaries.

"Most of the parents say, 'I went to a grammar school and that's what I want for my daughter.' I accept that the grammar school has gone, and I regret it deeply. The sad paradox is that a significantly smaller proportion of the lower socio-economic

groups now goes to university than 25 years ago. The grammar-school factor put more bright boys and girls into university. I'm afraid I'm on the side of the aspirers, I wish we could get the blend of quality and equality right. I am passionately opposed to the flattening out of education."

She is also passionate about single-sex schools. When girls long to go off to boys' schools in the sixth form, she understands. "They want a change, they want to test themselves, they feel: 'I know I may not like it and I may not be doing the right thing, but I feel I've got to try it.' One of our most intelligent and articulate girls went to Wellington last year and came back after a week and we warmly welcomed her back."

Although from a strong Welsh teaching tradition (her grandfather and great-grandfather were both headmasters) she was intending to go into personnel management herself, but followed her husband into teaching. She taught history in various state schools — co-ed secondary modern, comprehensive, grammar.

When she was 30, her marriage broke down, and she applied to Wimbleton High, another GPDS school. "I owe my career to Mrs Piper, the then head," she says. When Mrs Piper went on a sabbatical on a banana boat to Jamaica, leaving Mrs Burgess in charge, Mrs Burgess found she liked it. She won the headship of South Hampstead at only 35.

Not only is 18 years a very long headship; the inter-personal wear and tear is exhausting. There are so many people needing things of you, which cannot be deferred. Sometimes I long to work with things. School life has a clear structure but a high degree of unpredictability. My diary may be clear, and I think I can catch up — then the world falls in."

She has had to give up teaching altogether ("and I love the Anglo-Saxons").

"The amount we do just grows and grows. Things get added on, and nothing gets taken away: extra-



Averil Burgess: I'm afraid I'm on the side of the aspirers. I am passionately opposed to the flattening out of education'

curricular activities, coursework, visits, work experience, shadowing; now we're into work experience abroad, and constantly expanding. Expectations have grown among parents and girls (you cannot slap down the Hampstead parent) and to deliver a quality education is very demanding for everyone."

She is a convert to GCSE. "It's the coursework that enables us to stretch the ablest candidates. Some of them write mini-theses. And some of the stuff they produce in art is much richer and more interesting." Her chief criticism of exams is the fine distinction in A level pass grades so the pupils may fail for two years,

only to find that a D or E pass grade has negligible currency. At her school, the A level success rate is 97 percent, 77.3 per cent with an A or B grade.

Yet she sheds the headmistress's mantle of authority without regret. "On first becoming a head, you realise that you change a situation just by going into it. Everything you say is potentially more significant: a casual word has reverberations you never intended."

Parents will expect headmistresses to be formidable, like the tweedy Miss B.N. Champion, who was head of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Girls' Grammar School in Mrs Burgess's

own school days. "But I remember being surprised to find, on an outing to the circus, that Miss Champion had a human side," she says.

"I once saw a parent in Sainsbury's who said, 'I never expected to see you here.' I said, did you think I shopped at Fortnum's?"

"On first becoming a head, you realise that you change a situation just by going into it. Everything you say is potentially more significant: a casual word has reverberations you never intended."

When people ask her what she will now do, she replies: "Much less." But she will probably be just as busy, only leading a more portfolio kind of life" on several committees and councils on education policy, including the National

Commission on Education. She may also travel the world, but in the meantime, she is mastering her ancestral language, Welsh.

Next week, she will be at Nant Gwrtwethyn, a deserted quarry village which is now the national language centre.

"It is total immersion, no TV, no radio, no newspapers, no alcohol, and only Welsh spoken: it is a retreat from the world," she says, "so I shan't even know who has won the election."

Today, however, is the mock election at South Hampstead, where the arguments will be eloquently and ringingly expressed.

AND BRIEFLY A sweet choice

ELECTION fever has already stimulated industry. Throntons, the chocolatiers, is selling Vote Chocolate roses and other edible treats for the undecided, and British Rail buffets have come up with an Electoral Roll — containing "red sausage, blue cheese, yellow mustard and green lettuce" — at the suitably inflated price of £1.79. The Museum Store in Covent Garden, London, is selling sets of election postcards based on historic posters for £2.25 a pack of ten (£2 for *Times* readers flourishing this cutting before April 9). And to cap it all, the Victoria & Albert Museum is running an exhibition of political campaign memorabilia, Election Fever — or Fatigue. The only problem is that it does not start until April 29.

Super buy

TESCO has linked with the fashion designer Jeff Banks (of Warehouse and Clothes Show fame) to produce an environmentally friendly range of clothing for men, women and children which will be in 110 stores from this month.

Good Goods are made of 100 per cent Green Cotton" which means "the cotton is hand-picked to avoid using chemical defoliants," Mr Banks says. There are other selling points for those who don't care about the environment, including the fact that these T-shirts and tracksuits can be tumble-dried without "twisting" as some cotton garments do. Prices range from £6.99 for children's T-shirts to £19.99 for a woman's sweatshirt.

Picture list

WEDDING lists are usually so dull. They contain the china and cutlery, bed linen and other necessities — however luxurious — of married life. So The Art Collection, the innovative, moderately priced art gallery in Chelsea, has come up with a clever twist: an art-lovers' wedding list. "We are inviting couples to look around the gallery and choose some pictures, which range in price from £50 to £1,250. We note those down and they let their friends know they have a wedding list with us," says Nick Hely-Hutchinson, the gallery's proprietor. "Friends can club together for one painting — and we give the couple 10 per cent of their total wedding list sales towards any purchase they might care to make with us." The Art Collection is at 3 Elystan Street, London SW3 3NT (071-584 4664).

Party ties

THE closing date for entries for the V & A's discreet little exhibition later this month of the world's most indiscreet ties was yesterday. But still there has been no entry from the prime minister — although both Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown have made donations. "But we have been promised one from him and — in his case — might make an exception and extend the date to after April 9," says Claudia Bigg, who is organising the exhibition. Alas for the V & A, the ties donated by the party leaders are among the most boring (Paddy Ashdown's mauve and brown with multi-coloured diagonal stripes; Neil Kinnock's innocuous pattern) whereas those from unknown donors make much more exciting viewing. The V & A plans to display the ties in a case in its new European Ornament Gallery, but has not yet set a date.

VICTORIA MCKEE

SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy the good life at up to half the cost

READERS can save up to 50 per cent on a Hilton weekend break in Britain, and get two nights for the price of one on the Continent, simply by collecting five of the six differently numbered tokens being printed in *The Times* every day this week.

When you have collected five tokens, you can make a reservation by telephone.

Lists of participating hotels were printed on Monday, and will be repeated later in the week, together with a booking form.

To book at one of the 35 hotels in Britain (25 or 50 per cent off), call Hilton Central. Reservations on 0923 2444000 (ref TI 92). For one of 29 hotels in 12 other countries (two nights

for the price of one), call 081-780 1155 (ref TI Europe). The offer is available from April 4 until September 9.

For example, a two-night weekend at the London Olympia Hotel would usually cost a guest £120 — but with the help of *The Times* tokens you need pay only £60.

A two-night weekend at the Hilton National, Edinburgh would cost you £70 instead of £140.

For full details and conditions, call the *Times/Hilton* Brochure Hotline on 0235 865656, quoting TI 92 for UK breaks, or TI Europe for Continental breaks. The *Times* promotion offer rules apply.

Cut out and collect the coupon below. More will appear tomorrow and each day this week.

Elisabeth Nietzsche was a remarkably nasty woman who gave posterity a distorted version of her brother's work

Elisabeth Nietzsche had two careers: one was as the doyenne of an Argentine colony in Paraguay; the other, which she switched to exactly one century ago, was as the self-appointed literary executrix of her brother, Friedrich Nietzsche, arguably Germany's greatest philosopher.

Her first career was a disaster. Her second, by a process of deceit, misrepresentation and plain forgery, turned Nietzsche into a household name and the official philosopher of fascism.

Elisabeth's rise to eminence was unique: for National Socialism was the macho ideology par excellence, lauding German women as breeders of the Master race, but seldom as individuals.

More has been written, more galling, about Nietzsche than perhaps any other modern thinker, but his sister usually lurks malignantly in the footnotes. In 1946 the house where Elisabeth collected Nietzsche's works was sealed on the orders of the communist authorities: it was only reopened after the revolution in East Germany in 1989, allowing the full perfidy of her life to be exposed.

From infancy she both idolised and competed with her precocious brother. After the death of their father the children were brought up by a handful of elderly, pious and distinctly peculiar women, including their dim and beleaguered mother.

In Nietzsche's philosophy, this upbringing sometimes expressed itself in the form of blistering misogyny; in perhaps his most oft-quoted phrase he said: "A woman

ising women? Do not forget your whip." Scared of intelligent women, he never wed.

In Elisabeth, the effects of an unequal upbringing were more complex. She opposed feminism as "a movement of spinsteresses, whose adherents are generally childless women", and she described the ideal woman as one who "tries to lighten her husband's burdens, to refresh him after his dreary hours of work...". However, that was not how she behaved.

Elisabeth controlled men with aplomb, alternately be guilting and bludgeoning them into co-operation. As a role model she looked to Cosima Wagner, the wife of the composer Richard Wagner. Haughty, stylish and prejudiced, Cosima played an extraordinary role in his life as lover, companion, mother, diarist, administrator and co-creator of the Wagner myth.

Friedrich Nietzsche and Richard Wagner became close friends (and bitter enemies), and Elisabeth was a Wagner.

At the first Bayreuth festival in 1876 she alighted on Bernhard Förster, a violently anti-Semitic teacher. Elisabeth saw him as her Siegfried, a visionary whom she could project to greatness, they married in 1883. They decided to travel to Paraguay and build a German community, where Jean

would be banned and German peasants could cultivate Lutheran and (oddly enough) vegetarian values.

The colony, Nueva Germania, was a disaster (although some of the descendants still survive). Förster proved a broken reed, and poisoned himself at the end of a six-week drinking binge in 1889. Even before Förster's death, Elisabeth had received news of her

The philosophy of the dangerous sister



Family ties: Elisabeth and Friedrich Nietzsche posing for their confirmation pictures

brother, Friedrich had bitterly and jealously opposed her marriage to Förster, and long before his breakdown he said of his sister: "There can be no question of reconciliation with that vengeful anti-Semitic goose." But her brother's madness was Elisabeth's long-awaited opportunity for fame.

She abandoned Paraguay in 1891 and for the next 40 years dedicated herself to promoting his philosophy, or rather her version of it. She published his abandoned jottings as philosophy, and she trumpeted the great anti-nationalist and anti-Semitic as an imperialist, a nationalist and a racist. Friedrich would have been appalled, but for the last ten years of his life he was insane and was dead by 1900. The Nietzsche Archive she built in Weimar became a

feted by the far right and thrice nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature. Only a few individuals, such as Franz Overbeck, her brother's old friend, saw through her. "She is often praised now as a saint among sisters," he said. "But this will change. The time will come when she will be considered a prime example of the type: dangerous sisters."

She convinced Adolf Hitler (who probably never read a word of Nietzsche) that her brother was the apostle of fascism. In return, the old lady and her archive received a stipend from the Führer's personal bank account. When she died at 89, most of the prominent Nazis, including a visibly elderly Hitler, attended her funeral.

Elisabeth was a remarkable and remarkably nasty woman. She attained an unrivaled, if undeserved, cultural reputation in pre-war Europe, but she did so at the expense of her brother's philosophical legacy.

Nietzsche had prophesied as much. In *Ecco Homo*, his autobiography, he had written: "One day there will be associated with my name the recollection of something of a crisis like no other before on earth, of the profoundest collision of consciences, of a decision evoked against everything that had until then been believed in, demanded, sanctified: 'I am not a man. I am dynamic'."

BEN MACINTYRE
• Ben Macintyre is the author of *Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche*. Extracts are featured on *Timeswatch*, B122

THE TIMES
HILTON TOKEN 3

Joe's

Melinda Wittstock spends a day at ITN as its team covers the election war over 'Jennifer's Ear'

Few outsiders would ever guess the extent of time and painstaking effort that goes into writing *News At Ten*'s five bongs. Every word, every nuance, the very rhythm of each headline, is debated by presenters and editors as adrenaline surges through the newsroom in that last hour before transmission:

The words accompanying each of Big Ben's chimes on ITN's flagship news programme, particularly during such a closely-fought election campaign, must be just right. "It's the first impression viewers get, and of course the politicians listen carefully," Simon Bucks, the *News At Ten* editor, explained last Thursday night as Julia Somerville, Alastair Stewart, Michael Brunson, political editor, and David Mannion, ITN editor of ITV programmes, crowded around his computer terminal to brainstorm the five short sentences that would sum up the day's complex developments.

Bong! Tories admit putting paper that named the girl on to her doctor, Somerville's first headline reads at 9.12pm. "What about Major?" Bucks asks. "I think he said Kinnock wasn't fit to govern, or maybe that was Patten," Brunson says. Later: "Did Major say he didn't know the name of the girl?" Bucks asks. Brunson: "Yes, he says his hands are clean." By 9.47pm they settle on: "Major insists he didn't know the name of Labour's health girl."

Bong! "But mystery remains: who leaked her name in the first place?" gets changed to: "But the Tories admit we put a newspaper on to her doctor."

Bong! The doctor's phone call: how did the papers get the name? isn't quite right either. "What about the tape? We've got to show the name was mentioned in the conversation," Somerville says. "How about 'The doctor's tape: the papers knew the name when they phoned'?" Somerville suggests. "OK," Bucks says.

Bong! Doctors give the thumbs down to the government's health changes. "No, no, no. Make it BMA; we've had too many doctors," Bucks says.

Bong! Doctors and Mike Tyson is sent to jail for six years for rape.

The atmosphere is tense in ITN's £43 million glass fortress, as employees begin their newsgathering 15 hours earlier. Staff, admiring

Nuances that shape the news



Five short sentences: Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart brainstorm the start of the *News At Ten*

ished the day before by Stewart Purvis, the editor-in-chief, for allowing the BBC *One O'Clock News* to pull ahead of ITN on the Jennifer Bennett controversy, are determined to scoop the BBC.

"Today we need to get to grips with who is lying to whom," David Mannion tells editors at the 9.10am meeting, the first of many throughout the day.

A live feed from Neil Kinnock's Nottingham press conference electrifies the newsroom. Trembling with rage, Julie Hall, his press secretary, has denied leaking the name of the girl whose illness inspired Labour's emotional election broadcast, and journalists have been caught by ITN cameras surrounding Peter Hitchens, the *Daily Express* journalist, to demand that he reveal how he obtained the girl's name.

The hunt is on. "Go back to Tory Central Office, the grandfather, the mother, the father, the consultant and the *Express*," Purvis instructs programme editors at the 10.30am meeting.

While the BBC often excels at analysis, ITN is at its best when

there is a scoop in the air. From the time ITN got Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the *Daily Express* editor, to admit that his paper got the name of the girl's consultant from Tory Central Office, ITN led the BBC. The interview gave Brunson the ammunition he needed to force William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to admit later that afternoon that the Tories had put the consultant in touch with the *Express*. By 8pm, ITN had its scoop — a tape of Hitchens asking the consultant whether the girl was John Bennett's daughter.

Along a corridor behind the newsroom, journalists prepare *Lunchtime News* reports. Mark Webster, a political correspondent, tells Mike Turner, picture editor, what he needs. "Let's have a double-whammy of Clarke and Patten." A bit of Clarke shugger, some Patten shugger, then some sweet-man Major with his "it-would-never-be-like-this-if-Atleas-was-running-Labour" — pass the motion discomfort bags, God bless him!"

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, has just accused Chris Patten of leaking the girl's name to the *Express*. Harry Smith, a general news reporter, is duly despatched to Tory Central Office to doorstep Patten. It is 12.10pm. "Either he [Patten] is preparing his answer or he's sneaked out the back," Smith says. Near the end of the *Lunchtime News*, ITN and BBC crews confirm with a press officer that Patten had indeed sneaked away.

The first of several *News At Ten* meetings starts at 2.45pm. At 4pm, Phil Moger, editor of the *Early Evening News*, tells me he is too busy to let me watch him prepare the 5.40pm bulletin. John Suchet, who is writing the "links" between reports, explains: political coverage has to be interrupted by Bill Neely's report on Tyson's sentencing from Indianapolis because the live satellite goes down at 5.49pm. If Brunson overruns on his live link all hell will break loose in the control room. In the end, the Neely report goes without hitch: except the "aston" (subtitle) identifying the girl by the Tories.

At the end of the day, 30 viewers had complained about pro-Tory bias; only four about pro-Labour bias. Several said they were "sick and tired" of election news; one even asked ITN to stop covering politics until after the election.

• The BBC announces its election night coverage plans today, and ITN details its schedule tomorrow.

Andreas Whittam Smith, editor of *The Independent*, never comes up on screen.

Tension is running high minutes before the 7pm *Channel Four News*, as Jon Snow, the presenter, and Richard Tait, the editor, discuss questions for Kenneth Clarke, Roy Hattersley and Sir David Steele. "It is not usually this fraught," Huw Roberts, the chief press officer, says.

By 8pm the newsroom is pulsating. An excited Alastair Stewart bounds up with news that ITN has obtained from the consultant a tape which might prove that Hitchens got the girl's name from Tory Central Office. "Someone's telling a porky," he says.

At 9.15pm Shaun Woodward, the Tories' communications director, calls Michael Brunson. Brunson picks up his notepad and reaches for the phone. "Hi. Yeah... yeah. I haven't heard the tape myself... No, but what is clear is that the *Express* already had the name. We are told by the consultant that it was the second conversation, yes... Yep, I accept that."

What did Woodward want? "Oh, he just wanted to emphasise that it was the second conversation. If it had been the first, then the *Express* would only have had 15 minutes to get the name from a source other than Tory Central Office." The scoop does not seem nearly as exciting as it did an hour earlier.

"Good Evening. The election campaign has been gripped by a furious row..." Julia Somerville broadcasts. Within minutes Owen Smith, the news editor, gets the first of three calls from Hitchens. He was angry ITN had not contacted him, and criticises them for leaving open the possibility that he got the name with the Tories' help. ITN insists its coverage is accurate, but at 10.25pm Somerville reads the main points again: "Peter Hitchens told ITN tonight he had not been given the name by the Tories."

At the end of the day, 30 viewers had complained about pro-Tory bias; only four about pro-Labour bias. Several said they were "sick and tired" of election news; one even asked ITN to stop covering politics until after the election.

Potential advertisers have worried about the extent to which video viewers fast-forward

Clear picture of the video boom

Researchers are finding new ways to track the way we use our videos, Stephan Buck reports

TOP TV-RATED FILMS OF 1991 WITH LARGEST TIMESHIFT AUDIENCE

	% of audience due to timeshift	No. of extra viewers
Big Golden Child	12	1.9m
Karate Kid	12	1.7m
Lethal Weapon	10	1.4m
Big Round In Little China	8	1.2m
Buster	8	1.0m
Batman The Movie	7	0.9m
Coming To America	5	0.9m
Fatal Attraction	6	0.9m
Great Outdoors	6	0.9m

Source: BARB/AGB

through commercials. AGB results show that though fast-forwarding through advertisements does occur, more than 60 per cent of the audience watches ads and trailers at normal speed.

In the United States, after a slow start, the video cassette business earned \$1 billion in 1991, of which \$6 billion was obtained through rental and \$3 billion from sales. This is more than twice as large as cinema box-office takings, and is meaningful compared with American television's \$26 billion advertising revenues.

The scale is different in the UK but, even so, the rental and sell-through market for videos in Britain is expected to be almost £1 billion in 1992. The recession has dampened growth in rental revenue, but the sell-through market continues to grow significantly and is expected to be worth £400 million this year.

As for advertising on video, with about 20 million people in the UK watching at least one video a week, the potential is there. In about 15 million British households, the VCR accounts for about 10 per cent of TV viewing time, comparable to the time spent watching Channel 4 or BBC 2.

The author is director of Stephan Buck Research, and a non-executive director of the Addison Consultancy Group.

As from next week, the Media page appears on Tuesdays

It is universally acknowledged that Saatchi and Saatchi invented political advertising in 1979 when it ran a campaign called "Labour Isn't Working" and won the election for Margaret Thatcher.

But this is not true.

The myth is cherished by the advertising industry because it portrays it as a powerhouse at the heart of the political process. And it has been enthusiastically embraced by the media. Count how many times the word "image" has appeared already in the coverage of this election.

But political advertising is not new, and its power can be overrated. Even if you disregard Victorian political posters — and it is more accurate to say that baked beans have copied politics than the reverse — mass media advertising has been used by politicians for at least 40 years.

The business really got going in

SELLING POINT: Advertising can win elections. But is this view a myth inspired by the image-makers?

Power and persuasion at the polls

although the former general did not apparently relish becoming a television huckster.

During the filming of his commercials, he shook his head despondently and mumbled, "To think that an old soldier should have to come to this!"

None the less, Eisenhower won by a landslide and the Bates agency, like Saatchi after it, was less than modest about his contribution to his success. "If only Dewey had known these things," the Bates boss boasted, "he too would have been president."

That claim was neither honest nor truthful. Eisenhower was a

cast-iron certainty, and he would have won with or without Bates's help; equally, Dewey would almost certainly have lost.

Politicians however, have never been interested in such niceties. The lesson they learnt was simple: advertising wins elections. The era of high-pressure political persuasion had arrived. Harold Macmillan's victory in 1959, followed by Kennedy's in 1960, appeared to clinch the matter.

Like Eisenhower before him and Mrs Thatcher later, Macmillan employed what was then the hottest advertising agency in town, Colman Prentis and Varley, which came up with the slogan

"Life's Better with the Conservative". Half the purpose of political publicity is to sting opponents into over-reacting, only naive opponents do so.

But does political advertising really achieve anything, apart from goading the enemy? It does galvanise supporters, they are galvanised into ever greater exertions by seeing their side's slogans on the hoardings as they wearily slog around the streets.

In other respects, advertising's influence is marginal. Like Eisenhower, Mrs Thatcher was well ahead in the polls even before the 1979 campaign started. Indeed the Tories' popularity dipped slightly during its course, from

which one could deduce, if one so wished, that political advertising is counter-productive.

The transient, one-off nature of each campaign makes it all but impossible to identify the precise effects of the advertisements. The best research yet carried out — in the United States, where the campaigns are both bigger and much more aggressive — suggests that they may influence just more than 1 per cent of the electorate.

That 1 per cent may well decide the outcome of this election, so these are important people to target; but that does not detract from the fact that the remaining 99 per cent of us seem pretty impervious to the political ads' men's wiles.

WINSTON FLETCHER

• A Glittering Haze by Winston Fletcher was published last month by NTC publications.

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DIY way to plot your future

**Self-build is
daunting, says
Rachel Kelly,
but it can lead
to big savings**

If the Duke and Duchess of York built Sunninghill Park today, they could probably shave £400,000 off their £6 million building costs. The worst property slump since the second world war has meant not just falling house prices, but falling land, materials and building costs too. In some regions, particularly the North of England, builders calculate that costs have fallen about 10 per cent further than house prices. Now could be the time to build.

Those prepared to take up the challenge are a growing breed. In 1991 the number of individual house-builders reached 23,000, while developers languished. Self-built "self-builders" overtook Britain's biggest developer as the largest provider of houses, says the Individual House Builders' Association, formed last month in recognition of flourishing numbers during the recession.

Tom Wallace, of the self-build consultant Wallace & Associates, estimates land prices have dropped about 20

per cent during the past year. The falls were greater in the north than the south-east, where land scarcity is naturally pockets that margin.

There are also more plots to choose from. In two years, about 25 per cent has been sliced off the house sales of the top eight developers and many are gradually selling off their land. Much of this land has planning permission and services are already laid on. Of the price of materials, Mr

Wallace says: "A few years ago, 1,000 bricks might have cost £240. Now you could get them for about £150, and even less if you have ready cash." There are discounts, too, on self-build kits. About 15 per cent comes off the average price of £8,000 to £12,000.

Mr Wallace's advice is to shop around: "About 90 per cent of companies making kits make one-off rather than standard kits. You make a drawing of your specifications and they quote you a price. I suggest asking a handful of companies for quotes."

Most self-builders sell their existing home before starting work on the new one. The financially canny might consider holding on to their property, Mr Wallace says. "Get building," he says, "and then in four or five months the recession may be over. You will have bought in a recession and be able to sell coming out of recession."

A cash flow advantage is staggered payments. Although most lenders expect cash payment for land, they will lend thereafter in stages.

Eileen Good has been building a house with six bedrooms and three bathrooms, plus a stable block, for the past two years. She moved in to her unfinished home in January 1990, after a lonely sojourn in a caravan on her country estate in Scotland, where there was no running water and only a sporadic supply of electricity from a broken generator. She oversaw the building work while her husband was away working in Saudi Arabia. "The joy

of building your own home at the moment is that you can get builders to come the following day, rather than next year," she says.

The Goods decided on self-build after seeing a show house from the self-build company Photon, which provided the kit. "We wanted an old country house but could not find the right one," Mrs Good says. She estimates that her new home is worth £450,000. The building costs so far have been £210,000.

you use subcontracted labour, it is cheaper and easier to find in a recession. The difference is that you are paying pretty much for the pure building costs," Mr Hall says. The contractor is not expecting a great profit."

The easiest kits to build are timber-framed. Brick homes take longer because of the technical sophistication needed for what is known in the trade as "wet fit", involving blocks and plaster. On average, it takes about six months

to build a timber-framed house using a combination of subcontracted labour and one's own tool. Solo self-builders working at weekends and during holidays could take up to two years to finish, but it is possible to complete a new

home in seven days by engaging the help of professional builders and consultants.

Mr Hall estimates that the finished house will cost about 20 per cent less than an equivalent Dunroamin bought from a developer.



DAVID HUTCHISON

TYPICAL COSTS
ON SELF-BUILD

(March 92)

	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom	5-Bedroom
Land	£30,000	£45,000	£70,000
Foundations	3,000	5,000	6,500
Timber	10,000	15,000	21,000
Brickwork	4,300	6,000	8,000
Roofing	1,800	3,000	4,300
Concrete and concrete pioneer	2,300	3,800	4,800
Glazing	350	600	850
Plumbing and heating	2,500	3,800	4,900
Sanitaryware	1,900	2,800	4,100
Electric	1,200	1,800	2,700
Plasterer	1,200	1,800	2,500
Kitchen units	2,300	3,500	5,000
Wall and floor tiling	500	750	1,100
Driveway	1,000	1,300	1,600
Drives, patio	450	600	1,100
Fencing/ landscaping	400	600	1,000
Decoration	500	1,000	2,000
Services (gas, electricity)	1,200	1,600	1,700
Preliminaries and fees	4,800	6,000	7,700
Total	£38,300	£57,500	£78,500
Cost per Sq ft	£36	£34	£33

Source: Wallace & Associates

Trade: 071-481 1986
Private: 071-481 4000

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LONDON PROPERTY

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CHISWICK Restored Victorian semi-detached house. 3 bed room. Original features. 4 bed room. en-suite shower room. Large kitchen/diner. Large garden. £75,995. Tel: 081-840 1240 ext 220.

EMBANKMENT Penthouse SW7. A large 3 bed, 3 bath flat. Open plan kitchen/diner. Large garden. £125,000. Tel: 081-936 2000. Commission: 10%.

FULHAM 2 bed, 2 bath flat in a large penthouse. VGC. New flats/Offices. Gt. Ch. 10 mins. Tel: 081-936 2700. Tel: 081-936 2700. Tel: 081-936 2700.

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LITTLE VENICE elegant 3 bed room. 1st fl. apt. 2nd fl. 2 bath. In very good condition. Tel: 081-936 2900. Tel: 081-936 2900.

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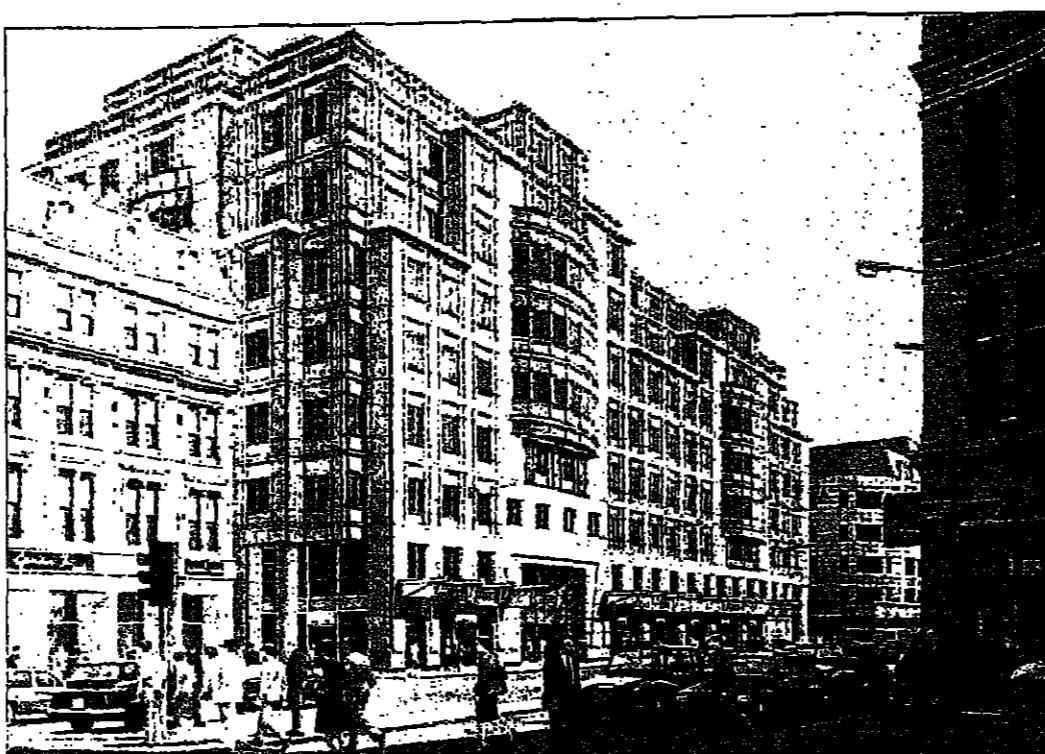
Ludgate's first milestone

A big City scheme
prepares for
its tenants.
Christopher
Warman reports

The first building in Rosehaugh Stanhope's £400 million Ludgate development in the City of London will be completed this month while fitting-out work goes on in readiness for the first tenants in June. As the recession has deepened, work has continued on this scheme, conceived when the developer was thriving and its other ambitious venture, Broadgate, was on its way to completion.

Rosehaugh Stanhope has lost one building from the original five, and that remains on hold. The other three buildings will be completed by the autumn, to provide a total of 550,000 sq ft of offices, shops, wine bars and restaurants, and a new public square on a four-acre corridor of land between Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars station. Rents are about £40 a sq ft.

The scheme was nearly at risk when the accountant Coopers & Lybrand merged with Deloitte and decided to take the four Ludgate buildings



New look at Ludgate: the impressive development between Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars

and bring all the staff together. However, the firm had earlier agreed to move to Embankment Place above Charing Cross station, and in the absence of a replacement

tenant the Ludgate deal fell through. Rosehaugh Stanhope remains optimistic, arguing that the location of Ludgate, between the Old Bailey and the Royal Courts of

Justice, makes it ideal for solicitors, while it is also in the area popular with accountants.

The finishing touches are being applied to the first of the buildings.

100 New Bridge Street, designed by Rettton Howard Wood Levin Partnership, which was also the master planner for the scheme. The ten-storey building reflects the area's Victorian and Edwardian character and has two large bay windows and stained-glass decoration. Of its 153,000 sq ft, the solicitors' practice Baker McKenzie is the first, and so far only, tenant, taking 81,000 sq ft.

Skidmore Owings & Merrill has designed the other three buildings, providing 158,000 sq ft, 179,000 sq ft and 56,000 sq ft respectively. The fifth building, planned opposite Blackfriars station and carrying the railway through it, is the work of John Outram. His highly decorative design will include a facade covered with coloured tiles.

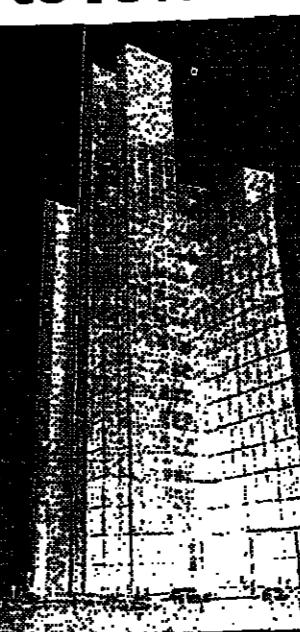
The Rosehaugh Stanhope scheme, carried out in partnership with the British Rail Property Board, has provided the first new railway station in the City for more than 100 years, City Thameslink at Ludgate Circus.

Building began in January 1990 after the closure of Holborn Viaduct station, and in May 1990 the Thameslink services were suspended for 17 days while the demolition and engineering were done.

In just over two years, Ludgate has seen one railway station close, another opened, a bridge removed and new vistas opened up. Now it needs tenants to fill its space.

MARKET MOVES

Gateway to revival



secretary must lift the ban he imposed on previous proposals while he decided whether to call a public enquiry. The council's decision coincides with the Corporation of London's commendation of designs for the first two buildings by Sir Norman Foster and Partners and Allies & Morrison. Sir Norman's 16-storey building, left, provides entry from Bishopsgate, opening like huge gates.

Final scene

THE Elstree Studios site, part of the former Thorn EMI Studios, is being sold by the Brent Walker Group through Pepper Fox, which wants offers of about £9 million. Part of the 15.5-acre site, at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, has been sold to Tesco for a supermarket. The remainder includes offices, film studios and workshops. There is conditional planning consent for 93,600 sq ft of offices, a leisure building and film studios. Richard Taylor, of Pepper Fox, reports interest from the British and foreign film and television industries, and from retailers and leisure operators.

Berlin deal

THE Norwich Union and Taylor Woodrow joint company is claiming a "first" for British property investors by obtaining full planning consent for a new high-specification office development in the heart of West Berlin. Work has started on the building, which will provide 2,000 sq metres of offices and two shops.

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LEIGHTON BUZZARD Det 2 bed bungalow. Plastered walls, 2000 sq ft, 2 double bedrooms, 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £40,000. Tel: 01234 203084

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BUCKS Brill. Traditional village home, 2 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01296 203084

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Cambridge. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01223 320000

HUNTINGDON In a family home, 2 bed, not listed, adapted for disabled. 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01440 720742

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EAST ANGLIA Rutland. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01205 821162

SUFFOLK VILLAGE 5 miles. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01720 470000

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WILTSHIRE Wiltshire. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01249 470000

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IRELAND Glengarriff. Cork. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 0121 574 8816

ENGLAND Kent. Detached 3 bed, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 WC's. £12,000. Tel: 01227 274960

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STOCK, Essex. 1 bed, 1 reception room, 1 bathroom, 1 WC. £12,000. Tel: 01245 222277

HANTS, DORSET AND I.O.W. ASHLEY Heath. Detached bungalow in secluded private grounds. 2 bed, 1 reception room, 1 bathroom, 1 WC. £12,000. Tel: 01256 200000

SURREY Crowthorne. 2 bed, 1 reception room, 1 bathroom, 1 WC. £12,000. Tel: 01344 871704

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Human Rights Law Report

UK breach over interference with prisoner's correspondence

Campbell v United Kingdom

[Case No. 52/1990/243/34]

Before J. Cremona, President and Judges J. Pinheiro, Farinha, R. Macdonald, A. Spielmann, S. K. Mariens, J. Foighel, M. R. Pekkanen, J. M. Morenilla and Sir John Freeland

Registrar M.-A. Eissen

[Judgment March 25]

Interference by prison authorities with a prisoner's correspondence with his solicitor and with the European Commission of Human Rights gave rise to a violation by the United Kingdom of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights held by eight votes to one in a complaint brought by Mr Campbell against the UK. The Court also held, unanimously, that it was not necessary to examine whether or not there was a breach of article 25, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

Article 8 of the Convention provides: "Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence."

"There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Article 25, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides:

"The Commission may receive petitions addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe from any person, non-governmental organisation or group of individuals claiming to be the victim of a violation by one of the High Contracting Parties of the rights set forth in the Convention, provided that the High Contracting Party against whom the complaint has been

lodged has declared that it recognises the competence of the Commission to receive such petitions. Those of the High Contracting Parties who have made such a declaration undertake not to hinder in any way the effective exercise of this right."

The applicant was serving a term of life imprisonment for murder following his conviction on October 10, 1984. The trial judge made a recommendation that he should serve not less than 20 years.

Initially he was classified as a category B prisoner, but following an incident at Peterhead prison he was charged with a number of offenses and re-classified as a category A prisoner. The classification pertained to inmates requiring the highest degree of security. The charges were abandoned by the Crown but not until March 9, 1988 that he was made a category B prisoner again.

From the beginning of his sentence the applicant had been advised by his solicitor in relation to contemplated and pending legal proceedings and other matters. He had also been in correspondence with the Commission.

Since 1985 his correspondence with his solicitor and the Commission had been regularly opened and screened by the prison authorities. The applicant made various complaints to the secretary of state and the Scottish Home and Health Department but was informed that all correspondence would be opened in accordance with normal rules except that concerning complaints to the Commission. He claimed, however, that despite that statement correspondence to and from the Commission had been opened.

He had been detained in, *inter alia*, Perth and Peterhead prisons, at considerable distance from his solicitor in Glasgow. He was now in the special unit at Barlinnie prison, Glasgow. The applicant lodged his applica-

tion with the European Commission of Human Rights on January 14, 1986. On November 8, 1989 the Commission declared it admissible.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on July 12, 1990 establishing the facts of the case and expressing the opinion that there had been a violation of article 8 in respect of the opening of the applicant's correspondence with his solicitor concerning contemplated and pending proceedings (11 votes to 1); that there had been a violation of article 8 in respect of the opening of the applicant's general correspondence with his solicitor (8 votes to 4); that there had not been a violation of article 8 as a result of the opening of the applicant's correspondence with the Commission (11 votes to 1) but that the applicant had not been denied the effective exercise of the right of individual petition under article 25, paragraph 1 (10 votes to 2).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

1. Alleged violation of article 8

The applicant complained that correspondence to and from his solicitor and the Commission had been regularly opened and read by the prison authorities in breach of article 8.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

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In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

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THE AIRBORNE FORCES GOLDEN JUBILEE APPEAL
BROWNING BARRACKS, ALDERSHOT, HANTS. GU11 3KJ REGISTERED CHARITY: 200342

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